GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

Triennium Report

of the

General Administration of the Province for the years 1937—1940

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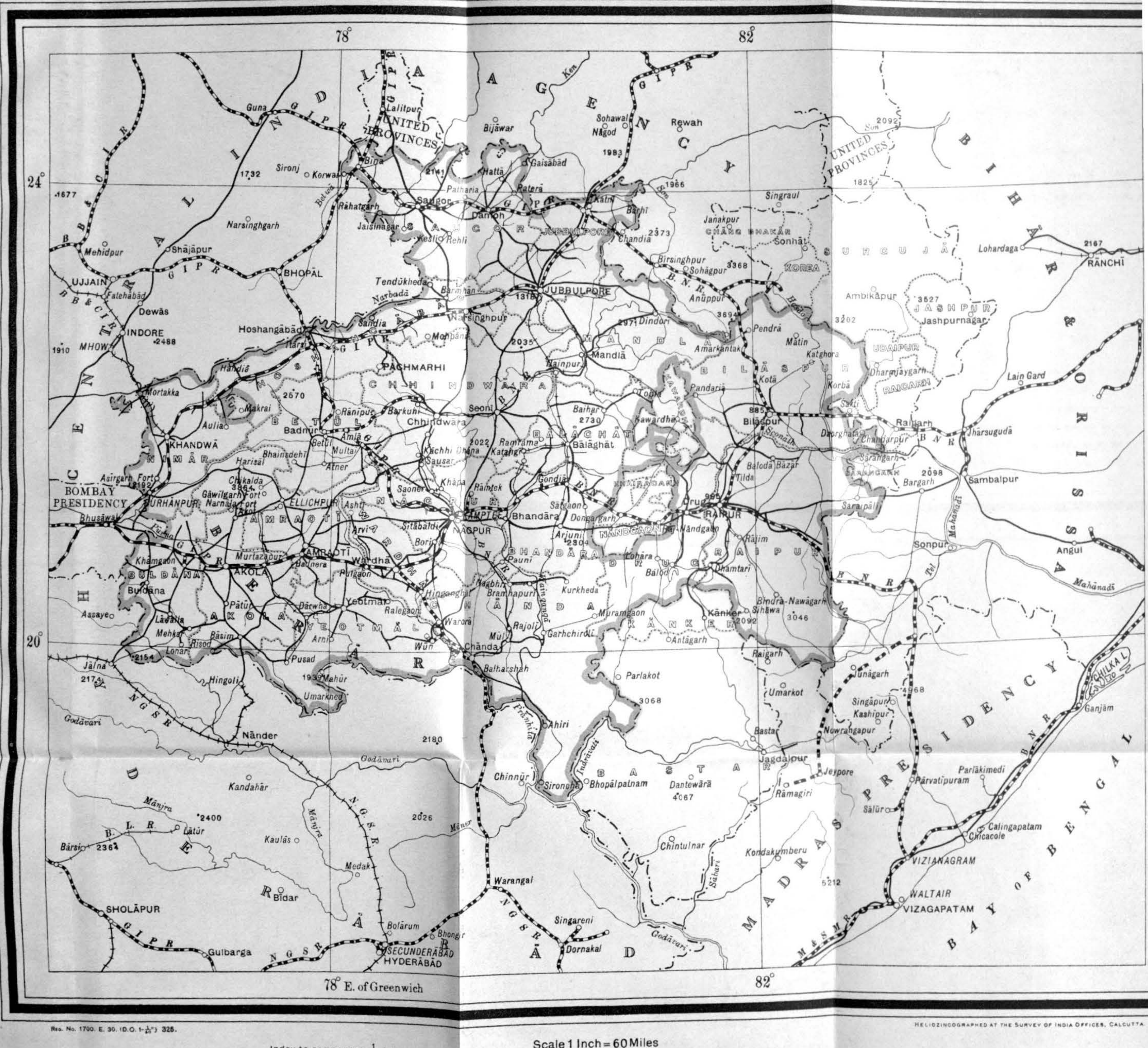
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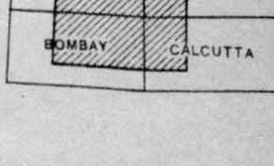
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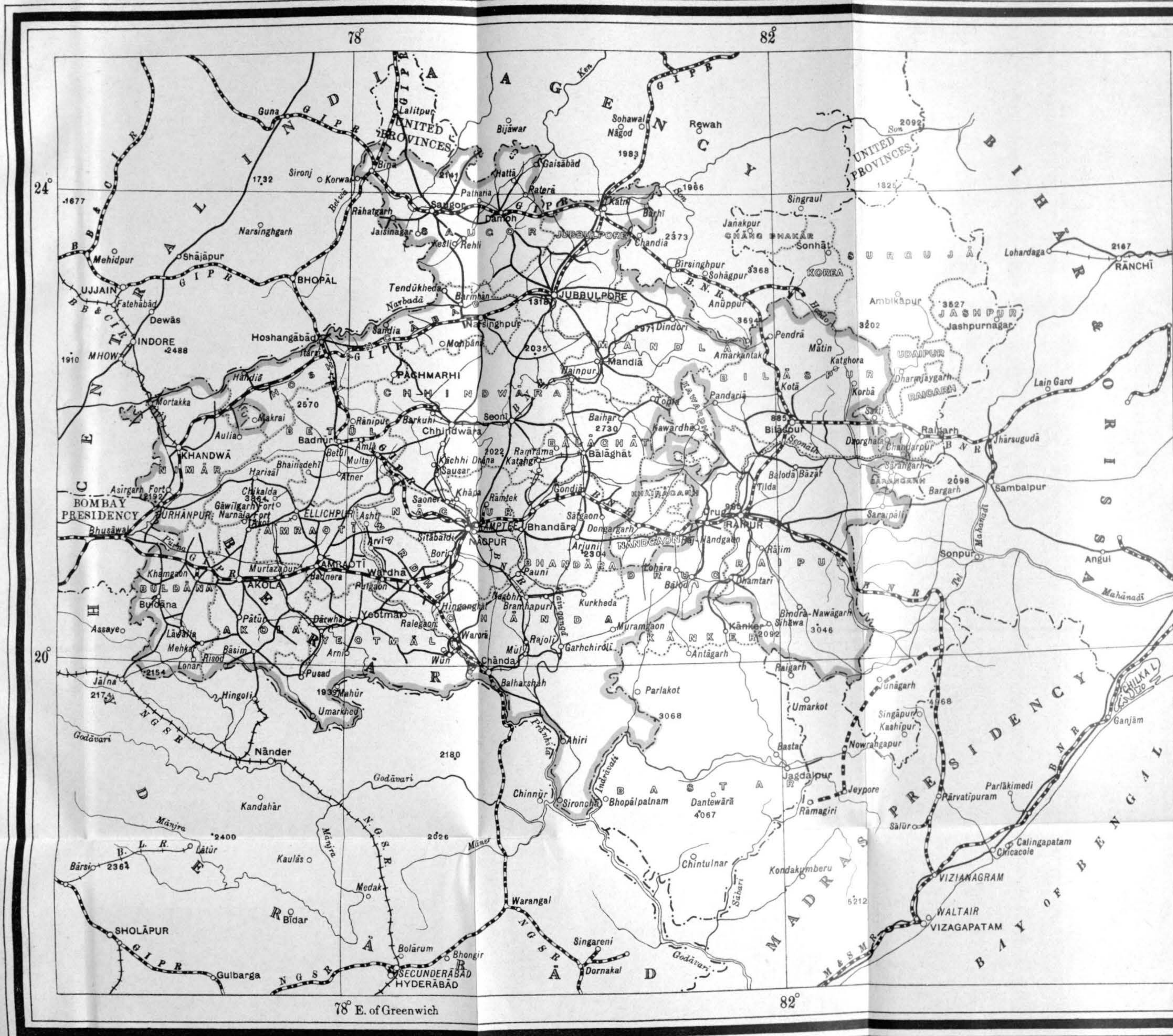
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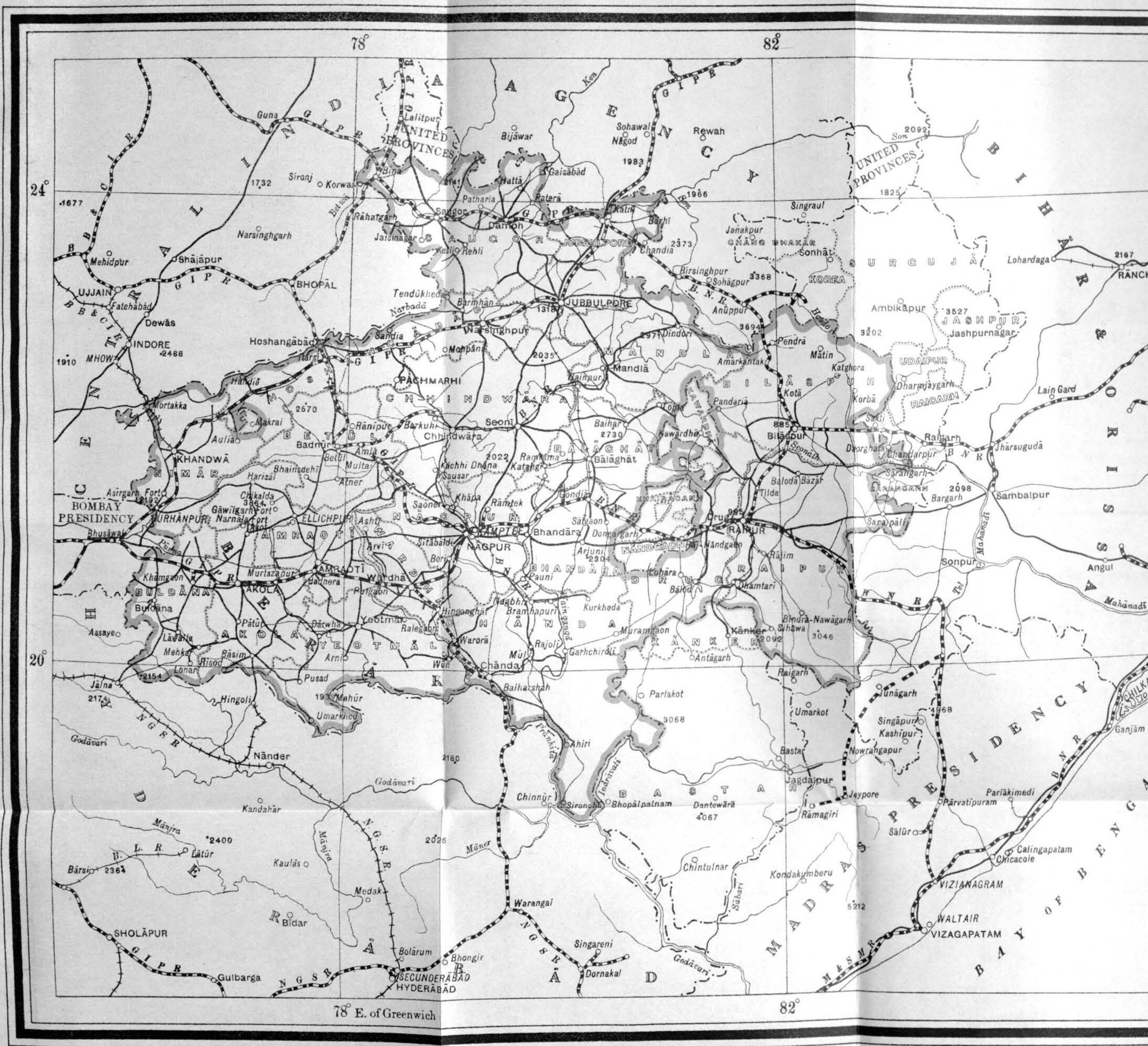
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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEARS 1937—40

1.—The Political Situation and the Provincial Government

Political Situation.

1. The triennium under report was one of as great importance in the national sphere as it was in international affairs. It opened with the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy and ended with the suspension of the constitution in seven of the provinces and a threat of internal political strife. In this period the country was keyed up to a high pitch of political consciousness by a series of events. The more important of these were the constitutional crises in the United Provinces and Orissa on the eve of the Haripura Session of the Indian National Congress, leading to the resignation of the Ministries in those provinces which was fortunately short-lived; the dissension in Congress ranks over the election of Mr. S. C. Bose as the President for the Tripuri Session of the Congress culminating in his subsequent resignation and bitter controversy; the formation of the "Forward Bloc"; agitation and trouble in Indian States—the most serious of which were the trouble in Rajkot and the Hindu Satyagraha in Hyderabad; deterioration in the communal situation in the whole country resulting in serious riots; the declaration of war to call a halt to the unashamed international blackmail indulged in by the aggressor nations flaunting barbarous doctrines of world domination based on fantastic theories of racial superiority and "cultural pre-eminence" and the resignation of the ministries in the "Congress" provinces.

2. Events of such importance naturally had their effect on the political life of the province. While the international situation till the declaration of war was a topic of discussion mainly in the press, other national events, particularly the schismatic controversy in the ranks of the Congress found their partisans among the public and a considerable amount of acrimony was imported into the discussion of these events. There were besides affairs of local importance which agitated the public mind, the most important of these being the agitation leading to the resignation of Mr. M. Y. Shareef of his office of Minister and the ministerial crisis necessitating the reconstitution of the Council of Ministers in July 1938.

3. The agitation against Mr. Shareef was prompted by the release of a prisoner in the Wardha Rape Case, before the expiry of his sentence and was taken up at numerous public meetings in the province and by the provincial and extra-provincial press.

It did not die down till the Working Committee of the Congress referred the propriety of Mr. Shareef's action to Sir Manmathnath Mukherjee, whose adverse finding led to Mr. Shareef's resignation in May 1938.

4. The ministerial crisis arose out of the unfortunate differences of opinion among the Ministers. Rumours had been current for sometime about these differences before they were referred to a meeting of the Central Provinces and Berar Legislative Assembly Congress Party on the advice of the Congress Working Committee, in May 1938. A settlement was arrived at, but it was of very short duration. Matters came to a head again in July of that year and Dr. Khare, the then Prime Minister, tendered the resignation of himself and the whole Council of Ministers, informing His Excellency the Governor at the same time that three of his colleagues, the Hon'ble Pandit R. S. Shukla, the Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra, and the Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta had found themselves unable to conform to the ordinary practice by which the resignation of the Prime Minister is considered to involve the resignation of the whole Council of Ministers. His Excellency accepted the resignation of Dr. Khare and Messrs. R. M. Deshmukh and P. B. Gole, and terminated the tenure of office of the three remaining Ministers. Dr. Khare was then invited to form a new Ministry, and the new Council of Ministers consisting of Dr. Khare, Messrs. R. M. Deshmukh, P. B. Gole and Rameshwar Agnibhoj, was sworn in on the 21st July 1938. The next day Thakur Piarelal Singh joined the Ministry. On the 23rd Dr. Khare tendered the resignation of the whole Council stating that he had come to realise that in submitting resignation on the 20th and forming a new Cabinet he had acted hastily and committed an error of judgment. He also resigned the leadership of the Assembly Congress Party. At a meeting of the Party, which was held at Wardha on the 27th July, Pandit R. S. Shukla was elected leader by a very large majority. His Excellency invited Pandit R. S. Shukla to form a new Ministry. The new Ministry consisting of the Hon'ble Pandit R. S. Shukla, as Prime Minister, and the Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra, the Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, the Hon'ble Mr. S. V. Gokhale and the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. P. Bharuka, was sworn in on the 29th July.

5. The part played by the Working Committee of the Congress in the solution of this crisis formed the subject of acrimonious controversy for several months. Opinion in the Province tended to be divided on regional and linguistic lines, Maharashtrians siding with Dr. Khare and the people of Mahakoshal supporting the Working Committee. Nagpur was naturally the main centre of activity of the critics of the Working Committee, and the public meetings organised by them were not always free from disorder. Dr. Khare was disqualified from the membership of the Congress for a period of two years by the Working Committee as a disciplinary measure in October 1938. It was only then that the agitation died down. The dissident section of Maharashtrians was, however, largely on the side of Mr. S. C. Bose in the controversy regarding his election to the presidentship of the Tripuri Session of the Congress and later

formed a Radical Group which supported Mr. Bose's Forward Bloc. Public interest in the matter was not, however, maintained at the same high pitch as during the acute days of the controversy, and except for occasional personal attacks on the Hon'ble Mr. D. P. Misra, the crisis receded into the background.

6. Administratively the triennium was not an easy one. The quickening of political consciousness and the jubilant enthusiasm which welcomed the acceptance of office by Congressmen had led the people to expect rapid results, and critics did not often make allowance for the difficulties confronting a Government in inaugurating far-reaching reforms, or appreciate the limited scope for Governmental interference in existing conditions to rectify economic ills. Symptomatic of this attitude was the increase in agricultural and industrial agitation.

The Kisan Sabhas were very active during the triennium. Several meetings were held at which resolutions were passed advocating among other things, the abolition of the malguzari system, reduction of rent and remission of taccavi arrears and other changes. There was tension between the tenants and zamindars over nistar rights in the zamindari forests in the Chhattisgarh districts, and in the Dondi-Lohara zamindari of the Drug district, a section of tenants even offered forest satyagraha disregarding the advice of the local Congress organizations and leaders. The placing of an officer on special duty towards the end of 1939 to enquire into the rights of tenants in zamindari forests, however, gave a quietus to the agitation. In Umrer in the Nagpur district a meeting of about 1,000 agriculturists on the 24th April 1939 passed resolutions advocating the stoppage of coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue, rents, taccavi and instalments of the conciliated debts fixed by the Debt Conciliation Boards and threatened satyagraha if Government did not give effect to the resolutions. Satyagraha started on the 22nd May 1939, but as it had practically no support from he tenants it petered out in a short time after the arrest of the leaders.

7. The Muslims took strong exception to the Vidya Mandir Scheme for compulsory primary education on the ground that it was detrimental to Muslim cultural interests, and the agitation against the scheme merged in the general Muslim agitation against the Congress Ministry on the score of its alleged anti-Muslim bias. The organisers of the agitation even started satyagraha at Nagpur in January 1939, but it was short-lived and was given up as a result of the complete agreement following a conference on Muslim education between Muslim leaders and the Hon'ble the Prime Minister.

8. The declaration of war evoked from leaders of all shades of political opinion spontaneous expressions of abhorrence of Hitler's wanton aggression against Poland and sympathy for his victims. The statement issued by the Working Committee of the Congress on war and the interviews given by His Excellency the Viceroy to Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders were followed with anxiety, and the resignation of the Ministry on the 8th November in compliance with the directions of the Working

Committee was viewed with regret by all sections of the population except Muslims. The resignation was accepted by His Excellency the Governor on the 10th November 1939. His Excellency decided that it was not possible for a Council of Ministers to be appointed which would command the confidence of the Provincial Legislature and, by a proclamation issued on the same day, assumed to himself all administrative and legislative authority in the Province. Along with the proclamation, His Excellency issued a statement in which he made public acknowledgment of the consideration and assistance enjoyed by him from the various members of the Council of Ministers and expressed an earnest hope that before any considerable interval of time elapsed he would receive once more the assistance and co-operation of those who by the votes of the people are held to be the true representatives of the popular will. The statement ended with an assurance to the public that till that time arrived the administration of the Province would be continued not only in full accordance with the spirit of His Majesty's instructions but, so far as was practicable, on the lines which it had assumed during the two and half years that had elapsed since the introduction of Provincial Autonomy. The change over was effected smoothly. Sir Geoffrey Burton was appointed Financial Adviser and Mr. H. C. Greenfield, Revenue Adviser.

9. As in the rest of the country the relations between the Hindus and Muslims deteriorated to a considerable extent and the maintenance of law and order imposed a heavy strain on district officers. There were serious riots in Jubbulpore at the time of the Dasehra festival in 1937, the Holi festival of 1938, the Holi and Muharram festivals of 1939, and in December 1939 the looting of a couple of markets in Jubbulpore as a protest against the alleged high prices of commodities degenerated into serious riots between the two communities in which unruly mobs indulged in arson and caused serious damage to property. Small riots also occurred in Nagpur, Murtizapur, Raipur and Khamgaon during Holi of 1939. In January 1940, there was a serious riot in Burhanpur which necessitated the opening of fire by the Police, partly in self-defence and partly to disperse the rioters. A regrettable feature of this affray was the attacks on individual policemen on duty by the dispersing rioters. In Jubbulpore, which has acquired an unenviable reputation for communal trouble in recent years, the criminal cases which were started after the rioting during the Holi riot of 1938, were withdrawn by Government with the object of helping in the restoration of normal relations between the communities by avoiding the further exacerbation of communal animosities attendant on protracted trials of communal crimes. But unfortunately the expectations were not realised and in 1939 and 1940 communal relations deteriorated further.

Though foreign affairs, and the conditions of Indians abroad —particularly in South Africa, the Transvaal, Zanzibar and Ceylon received a fair measure of attention, the press was naturally pre-occupied with provincial affairs especially during the first half of the triennium. Japanese aggression in China, Axis interference in the Spanish conflict, and the Nazi technique of subjugation of weaker neighbours under threat of war came in for

vigorous condemnation, and the victims of aggression were assured of sympathy. The policy of the British Government in Palestine was criticised and the Anglo-Italian and Anglo-Japanese agreements and the Munich pact were characterised as triumphs for the aggressors. The press as a whole has, however, been unequivocal in condemning the totalitarian aggressors and their plans for world domination. In dealing with Indo-British relations press comments have been mainly on party lines.

Composition of the Provincial Government.

1937-38

10. His Excellency Sir Hyde Clarendon Gowan, B.A. (Oxon.), LL.D. (Nagpur), K.C.S.I., C.I.E., V.D., I.C.S., vacated the office of Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar on the forenoon of the 3rd March 1938. Mr. (afterwards Sir) Hugh Bomford, B.A., C.I.E., I.C.S., of the United Provinces, acted as Governor from the 3rd March to the 27th May 1938, on which date His Excellency Sir Francis Verner Wylie, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., the newly-appointed Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, assumed charge of his office. The Hon'ble Mr. M. Y. Shareef, Minister for Law, resigned his office from the forenoon of the 21st May 1938 and the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, was appointed to be Minister for Law, in addition. The Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs and Law, tendered the resignation of his office along with that of the Hon'ble Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, Minister for Public Works, and the Hon'ble Mr. P. B. Gole, Minister for Revenue. These resignations were accepted and the tenure of offices of the Hon'ble Pandit R. S. Shukla, Minister for Education, the Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra, Minister for Local Self-Government, and the Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, Minister for Finance, was terminated, with effect from the forenoon of the 21st July 1938. On the same date, the following members were appointed to the Council of Ministers :—

The Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, Minister for Finance.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. B. Gole, Minister for Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rameshwar Agnibhoj, Minister for Agriculture.

11. On the forenoon of the 22nd July 1938, Thakur Piarelal Singh, M.L.A., was appointed to be Minister for Education. The Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Prime Minister, and his four colleagues in the Council of Ministers, tendered the resignation of their offices in the afternoon of the 29th July 1938 and on the same date the following members were appointed to the Council of Ministers :—

The Hon'ble Pandit R. S. Shukla, Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs.

The Hon'ble Pandit D. P. Misra, Minister for Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. D. K. Mehta, Minister for Finance and Law.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. V. Gokhale, Minister for Revenue and Education.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. J. P. Bharuka, Minister for Industries and Public Works.

1938-39

12. His Excellency Sir Francis Verner Wylie, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., continued as Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar throughout the years 1938-39 and 1939-40.

1939-40

13. The members who were appointed to the Council of Ministers on the 29th July 1938 also continued in their offices till the afternoon of the 10th November 1939 when the Hon'ble Pandit R. S. Shukla and his four colleagues tendered their resignations. These resignations were accepted and as a situation had arisen which made it impossible to carry on the Government of the Province in accordance with the provisions of Government of India Act, 1935, the normal working of the constitution was suspended, with effect from the 11th November 1939, by a proclamation under section 93 of the Act. The Administration has since been carried on by the Governor with the help of the following two Advisers :—

Sir Geoffrey Burton, M.A. (Oxon.), K.C.I.E., I.C.S.

Mr. H. C. Greenfield, B.A. (Oxon.), C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

2.—The Legislative Assembly and its Proceedings

(From 1st April 1937 to 31st December 1940.)

14. The Government of India Act, 1935, relating to the Provincial Constitution was brought into operation on the 1st April 1937. At the end of the period under report, the strength of different parties in the legislature constituted under that Act was—

Congress party—71.

Independent party—16.

Muslim League party—10.

United party—6.

Unattached—8.

15. The seat for the Bilaspur Rural constituency is vacant. Four bye-elections were held during the period under review.

16. During the period under review, seven sessions of the Assembly were held—two in 1937, two in 1938 and three in 1939.

The business transacted in these sessions (98 days) may be summarised as follows :—

Questions answered—3,165.
Bills passed—63 (56 official and 7 non-official).
Government resolutions—7.
Non-official resolutions moved—15.
Adjourned motions discussed—6.

17. **July—September session, 1937.**—The first sitting of the Assembly was held on the 30th and 31st July 1937. The only business of importance transacted in this sitting was the discussion of an adjournment motion relating to the alleged interference by Government officials in the election to the Assembly for the Bilaspur General Rural constituency. The motion was withdrawn after an assurance was given by Government to enquire into the matter. The first budget under the Government of India Act, 1935, was presented on the 10th September 1937. The September sitting was principally a budget session and the only other important matter discussed was a resolution moved by the Prime Minister for the convening of a constituent assembly to frame a constitution for India.

18. **December session, 1937.**—Of the Bills brought before the House in this session, only two Bills—the Prohibition Bill and the Committees of Inquiry Bill—need special mention.

19. **March session, 1938.**—This session commenced its work on the 2nd March 1938. Three money Bills, *viz.*, the Finance Bill (imposing a tax on trade, profession, calling and employment), the Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Bill and the Motor Vehicles Fees Bill were introduced and passed into law. Of the other Bills, four aimed at relieving agriculturists and one was designed to introduce reforms in the jail administration. At this session a resolution requesting the British Government to refrain from enforcing the Federal Scheme as laid down in the Government of India Act, 1935, was adopted, and so were the resolutions recommending the discontinuance of the conferral of titles and the provincialization of the I.C.S., I.M.S. and I.P.

20. **September session, 1938.**—Two Government measures were passed into law and several legislative measures of importance were introduced or referred to select committees. Of the non-official resolutions discussed, one related to the constitution of Marathi-speaking areas into a separate province.

21. **March-April session 1939.**—This session was of the longest duration so far held. It lasted for 26 days and was full of legislative activities. Out of the 18 Bills, which were passed into law, four were money Bills, and of the rest the most important was the Relief of Indebtedness Bill, which is intended to be of great benefit to agriculturists. The Prisoners (Amendment) Bill provided for the release of well-behaved prisoners for short periods every year in order to enable them to visit their homes and the Municipalities (Amendment) Bill introduced the principle of election of the President by the general electorate.

22. **August session, 1939.**—Eleven Government Bills and one non-official Bill were passed into law at this session. Of the Bills passed, mention may be made of the Municipalities and Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bills, which abolished nominations to local bodies and secured at the same time representation to Harijans, Muslims and women. A Bill of far-reaching importance, which introduced many changes in the existing Tenancy Law, was referred to a select committee.

23. **November session, 1939.**—The Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, which was referred to a select committee at the August 1939 session and four other Bills of which mention may be made of the Vidya Mandir Bill, were passed into law. The resolution regarding participation of India in the war, which was moved by the Prime Minister, was adopted in a slightly amended form.

24. **Suspension of the Constitution.**—In pursuance of the resolution referred to in the above paragraph, the Ministry resigned office on the 10th November 1939 and His Excellency the Governor, by a proclamation issued on the 10th November 1939 under section 93 of the Constitution Act, assumed to himself all administrative and legislative authority in the Province. Up to the end of December 1940, 13 Acts have been enacted by His Excellency the Governor, the most important of which being the Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 1940, which provides, by means of compromise or arrangement, for repayment of liabilities of registered societies. Of the remaining 12 Acts, mention may be made of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1940, which was enacted in order to extend the provisions of Act VII of 1939 and to bring it into conformity with the (Central) Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, the Payment of Salaries (Temporary Repeal) Act, which provides for the temporary repeal of the Act, which fixed the rates of salaries and allowances payable to officers and members of the Provincial Legislature and the Prisons (Amendment) Repealing Act, 1940, which repealed the measure, under which political prisoners were entitled to special treatment in prisons.

3.—Finance

Financial relations between the Central and Provincial Governments.

25. The constitutional changes introduced by the Government of India Act, 1935, made necessary a readjustment of financial resources and obligations between the centre and the provinces, the latter becoming responsible for the management of their finances, including the provision of ways and means and the floatation of public loans. The assignment to provinces of a definite share of the proceeds of income-tax was one of the main forms of assistance to provincial finances provided by the Government of India Act, 1935. At the commencement of the new constitution this province also received some financial assistance as a result of the decentralisation of balances and the cancellation and consolidation of pre-autonomy debt due to the Central Government.

Decentralisation of balances.

26. On the commencement of provincial autonomy, it was decided that as an integral part of the whole plan of the initial financial arrangements between the provinces and the centre—

(i) the balances of an intrinsically local nature or balances definitely associated with any function, which after the 31st March 1937 became a function of the Provincial Governments, held in the Debt, Deposits and Remittance group of the Central Government's Account should be decentralised;

(ii) a part of these balances should be credited to Provincial Governments and the remaining amount set off against the outstanding loans and advances previously made or deemed to have been made to those Governments by the Central Government; and

(iii) the balance of the liabilities in respect of sums due to the Government of India on the 31st March 1937 for loans and advances taken previous to the 1st April 1936 should, in the case of certain provinces, be wholly or partly cancelled as a measure of special financial assistance and in the case of others should, with certain exceptions, be treated as a consolidated debt repayable to the Government of India in the form of semi-annual equated payments of interest and principal within a period of 45 years.

27. This Government was entitled to receive Rs. 2,07.62 lakhs on account of the decentralisation of balances referred to in clause (i) above and the aggregate debt owed to the Government of India on the 31st March 1937 totalled Rs. 7,69.20 lakhs and consisted of Rs. 3,71.61 lakhs of pre-1921 irrigation debt, Rs. 67.34 lakhs taken from the Government of India to cover general deficits and Rs. 3,30.25 lakhs borrowed for purposes of capital outlay. The Government of India gave Rs. 25 lakhs out of the decentralised balance of Rs. 2,07.62 lakhs to this Government for the purpose of maintaining a minimum cash balance with the Reserve Bank of India and in the treasuries and the balance of Rs. 1,82.62 lakhs was set off against part of the pre-1921 irrigation debt. The remainder of the pre-1921 irrigation debt, *viz.*, Rs. 1,88.99 lakhs and a sum of Rs. 67.34 lakhs representing the loans taken to cover general deficits were remitted by the Government of India. The balance of the debt owed to the Central Government was made repayable in 45 years at an average rate of interest of 4½ per cent. The financial assistance derived by this Government as a result of these arrangements is computed at Rs. 15.29 lakhs representing interest on the pre-1921 irrigation debt (Rs. 14.20 lakhs) and the equated instalment of principal and interest in respect of the loans taken to cover deficits (Rs. 6.97 lakhs) offset in part by Rs. 5.88 lakhs being interest on provident fund deposits, for which this Government assumed liability on the decentralisation of balances. At the commencement of the new constitution on the 1st April 1937, this Government had a cash balance

of Rs. 27.73 lakhs consisting of Rs. 25 lakhs out of the decentralised balances referred to above maintained as balance in treasuries and with the Reserve Bank and Rs. 2.73 lakhs being uninvested cash balance in the Famine Relief Fund.

Financial results of 1937-38 to 1939-40.

28. The financial results of the triennium ending 1939-40 are summarised in the subjoined statement :—

	1937-38 Rs. (lakhs)	1938-39 Rs. (lakhs)	1939-40 Rs. (lakhs)
(1) Opening balance	27.73	—6.65	43.01
Revenue Section			
(2) Receipts	4,53.71	4,27.41	5,08.50
(3) Expenditure	4,66.00	4,71.02	4,75.60
(4) Revenue surplus +, deficit—	—12.29	—43.61	+32.90
Capital, Debt and Deposits			
(5) Receipts	9,80.55	13,07.63	11,33.78
(6) Disbursements	10,02.64	12,14.36	11,28.72
(7) Net	—22.09	93.27	5.06
(8) Closing balance	—6.65	43.01	80.97

In presenting the budget for the year 1939-40 to the Legislative Assembly the Hon'ble the Finance Minister summed up the revenue concessions that were granted and the increased taxation that was imposed as measures of readjustment of the incidence of taxation. The revenue concessions granted amounted to Rs. 13.43 lakhs consisting of Rs. 10.25 lakhs as abatement of land revenue, Rs. 2 lakhs representing reduction in irrigation water rates and Rs. 1.18 lakhs due to grazing and other forest concessions. To this should be added Rs. 8 lakhs revenue forgone on account of the policy of prohibition. There was a fall in stamp revenue of Rs. 10 lakhs due to shrinkage in litigation owing to the activities of the debt conciliation boards. On the other side of the account were measures for the augmentation of revenue consisting of enhanced zamindari land revenue Rs. 3.40 lakhs, sales tax on motor spirit and lubricants Rs. 2.50 lakhs, tax on trades, professions, callings and employment Rs. 2.25 lakhs. increased rates of registration fee Rs. 1.25 lakhs, totalling Rs. 9.40 lakhs. Economies in expenditure were effected to the extent of Rs. 14.98 lakhs. Including fresh liabilities of Rs. 16.18 lakhs such as new recurring expenditure undertaken since the year 1936-37, the cost of ways and means accommodation and other miscellaneous expenditure, the total revenue forgone *plus* additional liabilities incurred amounted to Rs. 47.61 lakhs while the augmentation of resources *plus* economies in expenditure totalled Rs. 24.38 lakhs, leaving a balance of Rs. 23.23 lakhs on the wrong side of the account. Two

additional taxation measures were passed by the Assembly in 1939-40, *viz.*, enhancement of the rates of non-judicial stamp duties estimated to yield Rs. 2 lakhs and a sales tax on tobacco estimated to yield Rs. 1.50 lakhs.

29. The first two years' working resulted in a cumulative revenue deficit of Rs. 55.90 lakhs while the third year's working resulted in a surplus of Rs. 32.90 lakhs reducing the cumulative deficit to Rs. 23 lakhs. The deficits in the first two years were mainly due to the realisation of land revenue falling below expectations and to the shrinkage in the revenue from stamps. The revenue surplus in the year 1939-40 was mainly the result of the collection of the arrears of land revenue of past years, which was facilitated by the good kharif harvest and the rise in prices of agricultural produce attributable to the outbreak of war. This Government's share in income-tax revenue also rose to Rs. 13.95 lakhs in that year against Rs. 6.25 lakhs in 1937-38 and Rs. 7.50 lakhs in 1938-39.

30. The Capital, Debt and Deposit transactions of the triennium resulted in a net surplus of Rs. 76.24 lakhs. Two loans were raised in the open market, one of Rs. 50.33 lakhs in 1937 (which was utilized mainly for the repayment of the short-term loans taken from the Government of India in the year 1936-37) and another of Rs. 75.21 lakhs in 1939, for financing capital expenditure and loans to local bodies and agriculturists. These loans carried an interest of 3 per cent and were floated at a discount of Re. 1 and Re. 1-8-0, respectively. They are repayable at par in 1952 and 1949, respectively. Apart from these loans, short-term debt for ways and means was incurred during 1938-39 and 1939-40 by the issue of treasury bills and by taking advances from the Reserve Bank, amounting to Rs. 5,04 lakhs and Rs. 3,06 lakhs, respectively. This debt was for the most part repaid by 1939-40, leaving a balance of Rs. 40 lakhs in treasury bills outstanding at the end of that year.

31. In the first year of provincial autonomy, *i.e.*, in 1937-38, the Government of India had undertaken to finance the ways and means of Provincial Governments. In that year the Provincial Government overdrew its balance by Rs. 6.65 lakhs. This overdrawal was made good after the close of the financial year by raising temporary loans. The year 1938-39 closed with a balance of Rs. 43.01 lakhs but there was a floating debt of Rs. 1,10 lakhs outstanding. The year 1939-40 closed with a balance of Rs. 80.97 lakhs and the outstanding treasury bills amounted to Rs. 40 lakhs.

Expenditure charged and voted.

32. The following is the distribution of the budget estimate of expenditure for the triennium between expenditure charged on the revenues (*i.e.*, not subject to the vote of the Assembly) and that subject to the vote of the Assembly :—

	1937-38 Rs. (lakhs)	1938-39 Rs. (lakhs)	1939-40 Rs. (lakhs)
Expenditure charged on the revenues or non-voted.	1,47.16 [1,44.37]	1,37.79 [1,35.10]	1,82.05 [1,79.59]
Expenditure subject to the vote of the Assembly.	4,48.54	4,31.23	4,36.73

33. The figures in brackets against expenditure charged on the revenues represent amounts which though non-voted were open to discussion in the Assembly.

Divisible revenue and expenditure.

34. The ratio of divisible revenue and expenditure for the Central Provinces and Berar included in the budgets for the period 1937-38 to 1939-40 was as follows:—

	Revenue			Expenditure		
	Central Provinces	Berar	Percentage	Central Provinces	Berar	Percentage
	Rs. (lakhs)	Rs. (lakhs)		Rs. (lakhs)	Rs. (lakhs)	
1937-38 ..	2,34.01	1,33.86	63.6 : 36.4	78.98	36.65	68.3 : 31.7
1938-39 ..	2,24.57	1,30.57	63.3 : 36.7	90.17	40.22	69.2 : 30.8
1939-40 ..	2,32.78	1,28.31	64.5 : 35.5	92.39	46.87	66.3 : 33.7

Financial year 1940-41.

35. The normal working of the constitution was suspended by a proclamation issued under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, by His Excellency the Governor on the 10th November 1939, whereby he assumed to himself all the powers vested by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, in the Provincial Legislature. Consequently, under the powers thus assumed, the supplementary estimate of expenditure for the year 1939-40 and the annual estimate of expenditure for the year 1940-41 were authorized by His Excellency the Governor. These were published in the Gazette, as required by paragraph (3) of the proclamation.

36. An important change was made in the system of framing the budget in this year. With a view to avoiding the recurring deficit in so far as it was due to non-realization of the estimated land revenue, it was decided to take into account for the purpose of expenditure only the standard land revenue and to credit the excess of collections over the standard figure to a deposit head. The budget for 1940-41 provided for a transfer of Rs. 8.50 lakhs from the excess collections to the deposit head. This change justified itself in the very first year as owing to a partial failure of the paddy crop the estimated land revenue could not be fully realised.

37. The budget for 1940-41 estimated revenue receipts at Rs. 4,95.13 lakhs and expenditure against revenue at Rs. 4,94.91 lakhs providing for a surplus of Rs. 22,000. According to the revised estimate, the receipts are expected to be Rs. 5,08.92 lakhs and expenditure Rs. 4,87.81 lakhs, raising the surplus to Rs. 21.11 lakhs. This is largely due to increased receipts under Taxes on Income and Forest directly attributable to the war. In the Capital, Debt and Deposit section the revised estimate shows an excess of Rs. 13.92 lakhs in receipts as against Rs. 78,000 estimated in the budget, the improvement being due to larger receipts on account of State Provident Funds, deposits of local funds and civil deposits. The closing balance for the year is estimated to be Rs. 116 lakhs with treasury bills of Rs. 50 lakhs outstanding due to mature in April 1941.

Realisation of revenue for the triennium ending the 30th September 1940 in the Central Provinces and 31st July 1940 in Berar.

38. The total revenue demand was Rs. 2,23,72,404; Rs. 2,21,16,691; Rs. 2,20,81,125 [Rs. 2,24,56,982]. The decrease during the years 1937-38 and 1938-39 was mainly due to the following concessions granted by Government:—

Concessions granted in 1937-38—

(1) Permanent rebate of 12½ per cent to all small cultivators.

(2) Abatement extending over a period of five years of 25 per cent of the enhancement imposed at the second revision settlement in the seven taluqs in West Berar.

(3) Revision of takoli in respect of alienated zamindari shares of the Palasgaon zamindari in the Bhandara district.

Concessions granted in 1938-39—

(1) Abatement extending over a period of five years in highly assessed areas of Jubbulpore, Patan and Sihora tahsils of the Jubbulpore district and Narsinghpur and Gadarwara tahsils of the Hoshangabad district.

(2) A rebate of 8⅓ per cent for one year in addition to abatement of 25 per cent of the enhancement imposed at the second revision settlement in the seven taluqs in West Berar.

Remissions and suspensions out of the current demand granted during the triennium were as under:—

Year	Remissions	Suspensions
	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	1,17,448	2,45,984
1938-39	1,77,884	23,35,556
1939-40	24,116	5,30,670

39. The total collections including advance collections from previous years amounted to Rs. 1,98,66,927; Rs. 1,71,70,702; Rs. 1,86,25,722 leaving Rs. 21,42,045; Rs. 24,32,549 and Rs. 29,00,617, respectively, outstanding. In addition, the recovery of Rs. 12,02,444; Rs. 16,49,895; Rs. 29,76,000 was effected against the arrears of previous years amounting to Rs. 25,53,434; Rs. 30,86,599; Rs. 46,73,270, respectively. Remissions and resuspensions granted during the triennium in the arrears of previous years were as under:—

	Remissions	Resuspensions	Balance of arrears outstanding
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	4,32,182	2,41,744	6,77,064
1938-39	2,75,925	4,68,760	6,92,019
1939-40	1,84,531	7,78,129	7,34,610

40. The following table shows the demand of raiyatwari land revenue, the collections, remissions, suspensions and the resulting balances :—

Year	Demand	Collections	Remissions	Suspensions	Balance
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	6,10,410	5,46,188	18,806	23,128	22,288
1938-39	6,02,299	5,28,445	16,015	38,814	19,025
1939-40	6,15,752	5,36,186	15,600	54,639	9,327

41. The number of processes for the collection of land revenue issued during the triennium was 30,766; 46,399 and 44,074 [20,745].

42. The following table shows the position of taccavi loans under both the Acts in the province :—

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year ..	64,93,987	67,38,911	74,26,437
Advanced during the year	16,20,824	19,84,408	11,90,811
Amount due for collection within the year (including arrears).	46,90,005	50,67,619	50,09,712
Amount collected	12,57,943	12,09,926	28,68,373
Amount remitted	31,921	15,112	24,923
Amount suspended	4,76,488	4,91,747	3,96,529
Amount overdue	29,23,653	33,50,834	17,19,887
Interest collected	1,97,825	1,59,903	3,03,415

43. Over all the loan transactions the rate of interest recovered on the mean of outstanding loans was 2.66; 1.80; 3.7 per cent in the Central Provinces, 5.1; 4.2; 8.1 per cent in Berar.

44. The position regarding the consolidated taccavi loans in the northern districts was, at the request of the Provincial Government, examined by the Financial Commissioner and after a consideration of his report the Provincial Government issued orders that the arrears of past interest should be remitted and whatever had been paid towards interest after the consolidation should be credited towards the principal. The balance of the amount due after this adjustment should be recovered in yearly instalments not exceeding the annual rent or revenue paid by the borrower and should carry no future interest. The overhauling and systematization of the accounts of these loans have been completed everywhere, except Damoh and Hatta tahsils.

45. For Berar, orders were issued to remit arrears under the Agriculturists' Loans Act prior to 1st August 1936, due from borrowers holding not more than fifteen acres.

4.—Season, Condition of the People and Revenue Administration

Season and condition of the people.

46. The monsoon of 1937 set in late by the end of June and during July yielded sufficient rain in the rice tract and rain somewhat in excess of the requirements in the rest of the province. The kharif sowings started rather late and in places were hampered owing to continuous rains. Germination was, on the whole, successful though some resowing of cotton and juar was necessary in parts of the Nagpur and Berar divisions. The anxiety caused by the continuance of the wet weather was relieved by the timely break in the rains of over a fortnight in August, which gave an excellent opportunity for carrying on weeding and intercultural operations. In September, the growing kharif crops progressed satisfactorily owing to moderate to heavy rain in the beginning of the month and seasonable weather thereafter. A depression moving in from the Arabian Sea gave widespread and timely rain in the first week of October, which proved very beneficial to standing kharif crops and also provided ample moisture in the soil for rabi sowings. Unfortunately, rain and hail towards the end of October and a cold wave at the end of November and the beginning of December damaged the cotton, juar and tur crops and the garden crops in the plateau districts and in the cotton tract, while hail and cold winds during January and February affected the outturn of the rabi crops. The provincial outturn of the principal kharif and rabi crops was not more than 83 per cent of the normal. Except for slight improvement in the northern districts the economic condition of the agriculturists in the cotton tract remained unsatisfactory owing to partial failure of the cotton crop and low prices. The effects of economic depression were however felt less in the rice tract owing to a series of favourable seasons for rice.

47. The monsoon of 1938 began strongly in the beginning of June and yielded heavy and continuous rain throughout July. Cotton and rice sowings were made under favourable conditions, but those of juar were hampered owing to excessive rains and some resowing was also necessary in places where germination was defective. The timely break in the rains during most of August was very useful for the weeding and intercultural operations essential for the healthy growth of plants. During most of September the weather was seasonable with light to moderate showers at intervals and gave excellent opportunity for completing the weeding and intercultural operations for stimulating the growth of kharif crops. Rain in the first week of October was beneficial but its continuance in the second week damaged cotton by causing the shedding of buds and bolls. The rabi sowings though interrupted were completed in the second half of the month. At this stage the outturn of rice was slightly above normal and that of cotton about 84 per cent of the normal. On abrupt cessasion of the monsoon after the middle of October and the absence of winter showers in November, December and most of January however adversely affected the late kharif

and the growing rabi crops. Hail in the months of February and March added to the damage to rabi crops. The kharif season with the excessive rainfall in the early monsoon and the rabi season, which fell short of expectations owing to the absence of the winter rains and the damage by cloudy weather, insect-pests and hail reduced the provincial outturn of the principal kharif and rabi crops to 86 per cent of the normal. Agriculturists in the cotton tract were hard-hit owing to partial failure of the cotton crop for the second year in succession. Relief works were also opened in the distressed areas to provide employment for agricultural labourers.

48. The monsoon of 1939 was late and did not gather strength even towards the end of June. In consequence kharif sowings were generally retarded throughout the province. Sufficient rain was received in the first three weeks of July which enabled resumption and completion of kharif sowings, while an opportune break in the last week of the month provided optimum conditions for weeding and intercultural operations. Unfortunately, this break persisted too long with the result that transplantation and thinning of rice were suddenly interrupted and standing crops began to wither on light soils. The timely advent of the rains in the third week of August allayed the anxiety and enabled field operations to be pushed on. The weather though wet in the early September was mostly seasonable and field operations in the cotton and rice tracts were successfully completed and the growing crops looked encouraging. A prolonged break lasting almost till the end of October retarded the growth of the ripening grain crops and checked the development of cotton, particularly on light soils. The rain received towards the end of October and the beginning of November improved the condition of standing crops and also provided the much-needed moisture in the soil for rabi crops. Rabi sowings were revived but owing to inadequate rain double-cropping was reduced considerably. During most of November, December and January the weather was dry and the growing rabi crops suffered owing to lack of moisture in the soil. The rain received in the first half of February was beneficial only to late rabi, while rain and hail in March slightly damaged the rabi crops in places. The provincial outturn of the principal kharif and rabi crops was 81 per cent of the normal. The economic condition of the cultivators in the cotton tract improved substantially owing to the better yield of cotton and juar and the rise in prices. In the rice tract and the rabi areas a slight decrease in yield was more than compensated by the increase in prices of all agricultural commodities.

49. The variations in cropping outturns and prices during the triennium ending 1939-40 are exhibited in the appended statement.

Registration of rainfall.

50. Registration of rainfall was done efficiently and except for two raingauges maintained by the Irrigation Department closed down during the last year of the triennium, the number of raingauges in the province remained unchanged.

51. Statement showing the details of cropping, outturn of principal crops and harvest prices in the Central Provinces and Berar during the triennium (1937—40)—

Year		Details of cropping					
		Occupied area	Net cropped area	Double cropped area	Irrigated area	Kharif area	Rabi area
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
1937-38	..	31,929	24,538	2,749	1,318	18,205	9,081
1938-39	..	31,949	24,369	3,069	1,060	18,237	9,202
1939-40	..	31,948	24,313	2,921	1,390	18,325	8,8.9

Year		Details of outturn of principal crops				
		Rice	Juar	Cotton	Wheat	Linseed
(1)		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
		As.	As.	As.	As.	As.
1937-38	..	12.3	11.7	9.0	10.8	11.2
1938-39	..	13.6	9.9	7.6	10.4	11.2
1939-40	..	11.1	11.0	11.4	10.2	11.8

Year		Details of harvest price per maund of 40 seers				
		Rice	Juar	Cotton (cleaned)	Wheat	Linseed
(1)		(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
		Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
1937-38	..	3 3	2 5	14 7	3 1	4 0
1938-39	..	3 1	2 4	12 1	2 15	4 7
1939-40	..	3 11	2 9	22 3	3 10	5 6

NOTES.—(1) Figures in columns (2) to (7) are in thousands.

(2) Figures in columns (13) to (17) are the average prices.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

52. The Central Provinces Moneylenders Act, 1934 (XIII of 1934), was amended by the Central Provinces Moneylenders (Amendment) Act, 1936 (XIII of 1936), so as to provide for compulsory registration of moneylenders. The life of the Act was limited to four years, which expired on the 30th September 1940. The question of re-enactment of the Act of 1936 was under the consideration of Government at the close of the triennium. The statement below gives the probable number of moneylenders in the province, the number of moneylenders registered, the total progressive income derived and the progressive total of prosecutions launched during the triennium :—

Year (from the 1st October to 30th September)	Probable number of money-lenders	Progressive number of money-lenders registered	Total progressive income derived	Progressive total of prosecutions launched
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
			Rs.	
1937-38	39,068	31,417	5,64,826	97
1938-39	39,068	32,055	5,76,220	165
1939-40	38,037	32,348	5,81,494	184

53. During the year 1937-38, 48 debt conciliation boards were working in the province and debts amounting to Rs. 3,52.76 lakhs were conciliated for Rs. 1,59.82 lakhs.

54. During the first half of the year 1938-39 the number of boards remained unchanged and debts amounting to Rs. 1,77.55 lakhs were settled for Rs. 87.46 lakhs.

55. The Debt Conciliation Act was replaced by the Central Provinces and Berar Relief of Indebtedness Act, which came into force in July 1939 and debt conciliation boards were replaced by debt relief courts. Such courts have been established all over the province by investing the Subordinate Judges with powers under the Act. Till the end of December 1940, 11,578 cases were instituted involving claims amounting to Rs. 1,20,20,711, which were determined by the courts at Rs. 80,82,280. This represents a reduction of indebtedness by 32.7 per cent.

Surveys.

[Figures in brackets denote the details for the years 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940, respectively.]

56. In the rural area in Central Provinces all missing traverse marks were replaced in 714 (337, 238 and 139) villages and 2,082 (*nil*, 690 and 1,392) new marks provided to facilitate map correction work and 293 (*nil*, *nil* and 293) new marks in the Nimar district for special survey of Public Works Department roads. In urban area all missing marks were replaced and 360 (76, 170 and 114) new marks were provided.

57. In the year 1937-38, fresh traversing to provide a framework for the large-scale survey was carried out in mauza Saoner khas in the Nagpur district, Sihora town in Jubbulpore district, Itarsi and Sohagpur towns in the Hoshangabad district, in the Nagpur Civil Station area in the Nagpur district, in villages near Gondia and Tumsar in the Bhandara district and Jubbulpore in the Jubbulpore district, in mauza Desaiganj and Ballarshah in the Chanda district. During this traversing 3,123 (275, 2,348 and 500) marks were fixed in 350 (28.64, 274.59 and 46.77) linear miles.

58. In 1937-38 boundaries were traversed of two mining leases of Raipur, one of Nagpur, one of Balaghat and in 1938-39 two of Betul district. In the year 1939-40 theodolite survey was also carried out of seven mining leases of the Nagpur district. The marks on the boundary between mauza Sakri of the Jubbulpore district, mauza Harduli of the Mandla district, mauza Riccharwara, Rampura, Nayekhera of the Bhopal State was also undertaken. The missing boundary marks of five villages of the Jubbulpore and Mandla districts adjoining the Panna and Rewa States were also replaced. During the year 1937-38, 16 new pillars were fixed by traverse on the boundary between mauza Sakri of Bilaspur district and mauza Jashpur of Sarangarh State. A detailed survey was completed of roads and lanes maintained by the municipal committee, Sohagpur, and detailed survey of diverted land was taken up in Tumsar town of the Bhandara district.

59. In Berar a detailed survey was undertaken of all plots adjoining the Public Works Department roads in Balapur town of the Akola district in the year 1938 and all missing marks were replaced in the nazul areas of seven towns. During the year 1938-39, 20 new marks were also fixed in connection with lay-outs in Amraoti, Khamgaon and Ellichpur towns.

Settlements.

60. In the settlement operations in progress was restricted settlement of the Balapur town undertaken with a view to protecting the main roads from encroachments in the year 1937-38. During the year 1939-40, the work of revising the assessment of the land revenue owing to appropriation of land to a purpose other than that to which it was appropriated at settlement was undertaken in 25 villages near Jubbulpore town with the help of special staff appointed for this purpose. The assessment proposals for the villages near Jubbulpore were under scrutiny and for those near Gondia were sanctioned with suitable modifications.

Consolidation of holdings.

61. The operations in progress in the Raipur and Drug districts were extended to the Bilaspur district in 1939 and work is now in progress in all these three districts. The number of applications pending at the commencement of the triennium was 332 and 943 (267, 395 and 281) new applications were received making a total of 1,275. Of these 402 applications remained pending at the end of 1940, 827 (292, 292 and 243) were examined and admitted and 7 (3, *nil* and 4) were rejected and the remaining were under examination. New consolidation schemes were prepared for 822 (285, 297 and 240) villages, of which 740 (285, 224 and 231) were checked and passed by Consolidation Officers. 69 (16, 29 and 24) old schemes were also revised and given effect to during the triennium. Forty-six new consolidation schemes could not be scrutinized and passed by Consolidation Officers though they were ready. As many as 750 (261, 252 and 237) schemes were confirmed by the Deputy Commissioners concerned acting as Settlement Officers and only 23 (2, 6 and 15) schemes had to be confirmed by the Settlement Commissioner. The holdings of 72,491 (21,785, 25,797 and 24,909) permanent holders covering an occupied area of 661,038 acres (238,853, 220,152, and 202,033) were consolidated reducing the number of khasra numbers from 1,359,953 (507,915, 481,715 and 370,323) to 432,154 (112,752, 199.047 and 120,355). Excluding 112,785 (32,826, 39,371 and 40,588) khasra numbers included in baris and kothars which are not usually touched during the consolidation proceedings the number of chaks was 319,369 (79,926, 159,676 and 79,767), which is about 26 per cent of the number before consolidation. The average size of a consolidated khasra number increased as a result of consolidation from 0.50 acre to 2.41 acres. The minimum cost of consolidation per acre was Re. 0-3-9 and the maximum Re. 0-5-2 against the sanctioned fee of Re. 0-4-0 per acre. The work in each of the three districts was inspected by the Settlement Commissioner and several improvements in the technique of the work initiated. These included measures to ensure that valuation was done field by field instead of

by block by block and should be recorded at the spot instead of subsequently afterwards. Consolidation Officers and Supervisors were also required to check and pass the valuation before allotment Instructions were also issued directing that holdings as allotted should be inked up on the field map to ensure that subsequent alterations do not escape detection. The forms in use were overhauled to improve the quality of the work.

Land Records

Organisation and staff.

1937-38

62. The following measures were taken :—

(1) The confirmation of patwaris up to 80 per cent of the sanctioned number of posts in each district was sanctioned except in the districts of Raipur, Drug and Bilaspur.

(2) The age of superannuation was lowered from 60 to 55 years in respect of revenue inspectors and patwaris.

(3) The probationary period of revenue inspectors was raised from one to three years.

(4) A contributory provident fund was introduced for patwaris, with effect from the 1st October 1937.

1938-39

(5) Three out of eight posts of assistant superintendents of land records in Central Provinces and one out of four in Berar, which were held in abeyance as a measure of retrenchment since 1932, were revived, with effect from the 1st June 1938 and were allotted to the districts of Nagpur, Betul, Balaghat and Amraoti.

(6) As a result of the reorganisation of the nazul maintenance staff additional posts of one supervisor, six nazul surveyors and 16 patwaris for Central Provinces and one supervisor, six surveyors and 12 patwaris for Berar were created, with effect from 1st April 1938, but the actual posting of the nazul surveyors could be made only after the close of the year as it was necessary to recruit and train the candidates before posting them to their charges.

(7) The second post of training reserve revenue inspector in each of the four districts of Berar, which was amalgamated with district office cadre in 1935, was converted into that of a land records clerk and that of the chainman into that of an office peon with effect from the 1st November 1937.

(8) It was decided that continuous officiating service for two years or more of a candidate nominated as officiating revenue inspector in Central Provinces should be counted as qualifying for confirmation as revenue inspector.

(9) The conveyance allowance of revenue inspectors was reduced from Rs. 20 to Rs. 15 in Berar and from Rs. 15 to Rs. 12 in Central Provinces with effect from 1st May 1938 and 1st April 1938, respectively.

1939-40

(10) A detailed programme and syllabus of training were drawn up for directly recruited assistant superintendents of land records.

(11) Tahsildars were declared drawing and disbursing officers in respect of travelling and compensating allowances to patwaris.

(12) The rate of fixed travelling allowance of the chainmen of revenue inspectors was increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4.

(13) The practice of reporting crop statistics for hard and soft wheat separately in the third and final forecasts was discontinued.

(14) The dates of submission of annual indents of the land records patwari forms used for copying purposes were changed.

(15) It was prescribed that the Deputy Commissioner should put one of his assistants in charge of the land records branch and that this assistant should inspect it at least once a year.

(16) It was prescribed that the superintendent of land records and assistant superintendents of land records should each inspect the land records office at an interval of not less than 4 months.

(17) A check register (form XXXVI) was prescribed in Berar to ensure punctual submission of returns by revenue inspectors, measurers and nazul maintenance surveyors.

(18) The duty of helping an illiterate patel in maintaining the cattle mortality register was prescribed for patwaris.

(19) The introduction, as an experimental measure, of a combined *kird* and receipt form based on the form used in the Bombay Presidency, in the Malkapur and Amraoti taluqs was extended to the Ellichpur and Balapur taluqs.

(20) As an experimental measure the receipt and *isral patti* forms in respect of land revenue payable on nazul lands and converted lands within the town survey perimeter were revised and instructions were issued for the collection of the land revenue on these lands by tahsildars through the agency of the village officers.

Boundary and traverse marks.

63. The condition of village boundary marks was generally satisfactory but that of traverse and sub-traverse marks requires improvement. The number of missing marks were the same during 1937-38 and 1938-39 but the number increased slightly during

1939-40 being 44,264 [42,718]. No progress could be made in the introduction of single boundary marks system during 1937-38 and 1938-39. In 1939-40, the system was introduced in only three villages of the Amraoti district.

Testing of village papers.

64. Khasra checking by revenue inspectors was adequate except that during 1939-40, khasra remained unchecked in 568 villages of Chanda, 274 villages of Chhindwara and 113 villages of Bhandara districts. The checking by the superintendents of land records and assistant superintendents of land records was not completed, except in the Mandla, Chanda and Bhandara districts in 1937-38 and in seven districts of Central Provinces in 1938-39 owing to the pre-occupation of the staff with the work of calculating the relief to be given to small holders in respect of rent and land revenue. The checking by these officers except in Chanda improved during 1939-40 and the patwari circles remaining to be inspected decreased to 406 [659].

Conduct of the land records staff.

65. Discipline was on the whole well maintained and as usual rewards were given to patwaris for good work.

Waste land.

(The figures in brackets are for the year 1936-37)

66. During the triennium, the total occupied raiyatwari area in the Central Provinces was 1,207,511, 1,218,404, 1,226,470 [1,203,627] acres. The increase is mainly shared by the Nimar, Chanda, Raipur, Bhandara and the Balaghat districts.

67. The total area unoccupied but available for *allotment* and the area sublet were as under :—

	Area available for allotment	Area sublet
	Acres	Acres
1937-38	225,822	60,867
1938-39	215,531	61,318
1939-40	209,957	74,653

Wards estates.

68. The number of estates was 46, 47 and 42 [44]. During the year 1938-39, five estates were added and four estates were relinquished, whereas in 1939-40, five estates were relinquished. The total gross income was Rs. 17.99, Rs. 16.01 and Rs. 19.39 [Rs. 20.00] lakhs. The rental collection was Rs. 91, 94 and 103 [103] per cent of the current demand.

69. Home-farm cultivation was carried on in 19, 26 and 20 [18] estates.

70. The total gross expenditure excluding investments and repayments of debts was Rs. 16.92, Rs. 16.08 and Rs. 17.85 [Rs. 17.41] lakhs.

71. The work of rental collection was generally satisfactory except in a few estates.

72. The amount spent on repayment of debts amounted to Rs. 3.4, Rs. 1.39, Rs. 4.25 [Rs. 3.23] lakhs.

The health and conduct of the wards were generally satisfactory. Due attention was paid to the education of the younger wards.

5.—Public Health

73. (1) The vital statistics figures and rates are as follows:—

Year	Number of births	Ratio	Number of deaths	Ratio	Infant mortality rate
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1938	661,785	39,51	629,301	37.57	238.20
1939	634,908	38.28	515,300	31.07	218.62
1940	627,946	37.58	506,224	30.30	226.07
Average for 3 years ..	641,546	38.46	550,275	32.98	227.63

(2) Epidemic Diseases—

(i) *Cholera* cases and deaths were as below:—

Year	Cases	Deaths	Death-rate	Inoculations performed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1938	93,073	45,332	2.71	2,380,550
1939	4,307	1,661	0.10	290,350
1940	10,942	4,947	0.30	318,485
Average for 3 years	36,107	17,322	1.04	996,462

Special cholera regulations were applied to 43 areas.

(ii) *Plague*.—The incidence, etc., is as given below:—

Year	Cases	Deaths	Death-rate	Inoculations performed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1938	5,713	535	0.02	19,485
1939	8,359	852	0.05	34,611
1940	2,546	283	0.02	24,275
Average for 3 years	5,539	557	0.03	26,457

Special plague regulations were applied to 46 areas.

(iii) *Smallpox*—

Year	Cases	Deaths	Death-rate	Primary vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1938	1,901	409	0.02	397,109	118,236
1939	4,838	762	0.05	364,713	284,796
1940	27,472	4,607	0.28	(figures not yet).	availabl
Average for 3 years ..	11,404	1,926	0.12	..	..

74. Cholera and plague regulations were amplified so as to make them widely and vigorously applicable. Special regulations for smallpox were framed in 1940.

Malaria—

Year	Total number of deaths	Death-rate	Percentage of the total deaths from all causes
1938	302,250	19·72	48
1939	276,432	16·66	54
1940	265,265	18·87	52
Average for three years	281,316	17·42	51

75. A free supply of 3,226, 3,680 and * lb. quinine was made during the year 1938, 1939 and 1940, respectively.

76. This includes 341, 652 and 366 lb. from the Government of India Stock. The sale of Cinchona Febrifuge tablets to the public, as a cheap substitute, was introduced.

77. The expenditure incurred on quinine and its derivation was—

Year	Total quantity	Amount
	lb.	Rs. a. p.
1938	4,771	77,146 11 0
1939	5,125	81,442 5 9
1940	Not available.	Not available.

78. During the year 1940, the formation of a reserve stock ot 1,600 lb. at 400 lb. per year was started. The supply from Madras Jail was interrupted during 1940 and caused great inconvenience. The Government of India, however, came to the rescue.

79. An anti-malaria scheme in the Civil Station area of Nagpur was started in 1939. Government grants to Dharni and Pachmarhi were discontinued. Two, one and one Sub-Assistant Health Officers were trained in malarialogy at Delhi during the year 1938, 1939 and 1940, respectively.

Leprosy.—Total number of lepers treated was—

1938	87,599
1939	117,577
1940	150,404
Average for 3 years	118,523

*Figures not available.

80. The number of leprosy Sub-Assistant Health Officers was increased from 18 to 21 in the year 1939. Twenty-two Sub-Assistant Health Officers and 25 Assistant Medical Officers were deputed for training in leprosy during January 1941.

81. *Yaws* prevails in Chanda, Bilaspur and Drug districts. During 1938 and 1939, yaws patients were treated by ordinary Epidemic Dispensaries and Stationary Dispensaries. The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000 for treatment of yaws patients in Chanda district by the establishment of two special touring dispensaries.

82. **Child welfare centres.**—There were 75, 74 and 79 child welfare centres during the year 1938, 1939 and 1940, respectively. Dais are trained in almost all centres.

83. **Health School.**—The following number of students for health visitors training were selected during the last three years:—

Year		Number of students admitted
1938	...	9
1939	...	14
1940	...	9

84. **Central Provinces Vaccine Institute.**—The lymph manufactured and supplied to vaccinators and others was as follows:—

Year			Number of doses manufactured	Number of doses supplied
1938	..	..	801,440	666,760
1939	..	..	789,040	790,250
1940	..	..	Not available	Not available

85. **Public Health Institute.**—The samples of water, chemical, butter, ghee, khowa, tea, phenyl, etc., were received and examined.

86. **Epidemic Dispensary Staff.**—The number of permanent epidemic dispensary staff was as follows:—

Year		Number of Epidemic Dispensary Staff
1938	...	42
1939	...	82
1940	...	82

87. As a result of reorganization of Public Health Department, Epidemic and Leprosy Sub-Assistant Health Officers were appointed to perform the duties of Assistant Superintendent of Vaccinations of the district councils. In addition, temporary travelling dispensaries were also employed for cholera and famine relief camps. In the year 1939, the scheme of mechanised travelling dispensary was introduced and is still working. Owing

to exigencies of war, five Sub-Assistant Health Officers were relieved for military service during 1940. Their replacement by suitable men is being found extremely difficult.

Improvement of rural water-supply—

Year	Number of wells sanctioned	Cost	Government grant paid
		Rs.	Rs.
1938	49	24,504	12,841
1939	140	1,13,009	61,807
1940	538	75,050	62,299

88. The contract system of district councils for construction of wells was examined by Government and certain suggestions were made to avoid unnecessary delay in the execution of works.

89. A Public Health Act for the province has been framed in 1940 and submitted to the Government for consideration.

Medical relief

Number of dispensaries and patients.

90. During the triennium 1938—40, 52 new dispensaries were opened while eight were closed. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries at the end of the triennium was 392, of which 214 were rural and 178 urban. The total number of patients treated during the triennium was—

	Indoor	Outdoor
1938	47,874	3,958,738
1939	47,583	4,275,473
1940	49,692	4,346,175

91. The principal diseases for which relief was sought were influenza, malaria, diseases of the ear, diseases of the teeth and gums (excluding tumours), diseases of the respiratory system, diseases of nervous system, diseases of intestines (excluding diarrhoea, dysentery and tumours) and diarrhoea.

Surgical operations.

92. The total number of surgical operations performed during the triennium was—

1938 ...	126,896
1939 ...	136,470
1940 ...	118,315

Financial results.

93. The total receipts and expenditure for the triennium are given below :—

	Receipts	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1938	14,32,397	14,95,731
1939	12,51,930	18,76,447
1940	Not available.	Not available.

Treatment of the insane.

94. The number of inmates in the Nagpur Mental Hospital during the triennium was—

1938 ...	594
1939 ...	613
1940 ...	622

95. The total expenditure was—

	Rs.
1938 ...	1,19,289
1939 ...	1,20,553
1940 ...	1,21,139

96. Receipts from paying patients amounted to—

	Rs.
1938 ...	11,491
1939 ...	12,130
1940 ...	10,904

Tuberculosis Clinics.

97. Facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis patients exist at the Tuberculosis Clinics, Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Raipur and Amraoti and at the Pendra Road Sanatorium, where 40 beds have been reserved for the patients sent by Government.

Blind Relief.

98. There is a great deal of eye disease in the province and this problem is receiving special attention. The Central Provinces and Berar Blind Relief Association is doing propaganda work and helping the blind. Eleven Assistant Medical Officers were given training in eye work for six months at the Mayo Hospital during the triennium. These specially trained officers are posted to eye centres in the province.

Anti-rabic treatment.

99. The treatment is now available at 13 centres in the province, *viz.*, Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Raipur, Akola, Wardha, Hoshangabad, Saugor, Chanda, Chhindwara, Khandwa, Yeotmal, Pachmarhi and Amraoti and the number of patients treated during the triennium was—

1938 ...	1,910
1939 ...	1,719
1940 ...	1,610

6.—Law and Order

Police

General.

100. The year 1937 was not an easy one for the police. The railway and mill strikes in the early part of the year, the elections to the Provincial Legislative Assembly in February, and the deterioration in the relations between the two major communities in several districts, culminating in a serious riot at Jubbulpore during Dasehra, taxed the resources of the force to a considerable extent. In 1938 too the police worked throughout the year in conditions of considerable strain owing to the deterioration in economic conditions, a widespread cholera epidemic and strained communal relations. The outstanding features of the year 1939 were the economic crisis in the cotton-growing districts and the serious and widespread communal tension. The almost complete absence of a demand for labour for weeding caused acute distress and depression throughout Berar and its neighbouring districts and consequently there was a serious rise in the number of house-breakings and thefts. The police gave timely warnings and dealt successfully with the increase in crime, which might well have been far more serious.

101. The number of offences registered during the three years 1937, 1938 and 1939 were as follows:—

1937	...	45,389
1938	...	50,180
1939	...	57,627
Total	...	153,196

as against 127,422 in the years 1934—36 as detailed below:—

1934	...	37,849
1935	...	42,692
1936	...	46,881
Total	...	127,422

The increase in crime is due to the progressive impoverishment resulting from a series of bad years and also to the fact that complaints are now being made in trivial cases which formerly were not reported.

102. Relations with the magistracy were excellent in all districts generally and the reports were unanimous in acknowledging the assistance given by the District Magistrates and their Assistants. Relations between the police and the public were also good. The question of setting these relations upon a basis of complete understanding and sympathy engaged the attention of Government in 1938 and a letter on the subject was issued in July 1938. In Bhandara, Raipur and Bilaspur, however, there was room for improvement in this respect and it is clear that a considerable increase in the number of offences against property and a lack of success in investigation in these districts was due to certain unfortunate occurrences in the past, but signs were not lacking of an improvement in the situation with the growing

realisation that assistance to the police in their investigations helps to restrain the unlawful activities of criminals and is in the best interests of the public.

103. The officers of the Criminal Investigation Department investigated 27 cases in 1937, 34 cases in 1938 and 39 cases in 1939. The cases were of murders, dacoities, coining, thefts, cheating, rioting, kidnapping, bribery, receiving stolen property and torture, etc. A considerable amount of extra work had to be undertaken in connection with the Tripuri Session of the Indian National Congress and the frequent calls for officers, principally from Jubbulpore, to assist in the precautions made necessary by communal tension and to investigate the numerous cases resulting from communal riots.

104. The total number of motor accidents was 929, 984 and 890 in 1937, 1938 and 1939, respectively, as against 691, 867 and 981 in 1934, 1935 and 1936. There was a welcome decrease in 1939 in the number of motor accidents involving death or hurt as compared with the figures of 1938. It is hoped that the measures taken to educate drivers and other road users will result in the progressive diminution of accidents.

Offences against the State, person and property.

105. There were 638, 664 and 1,047 offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety and justice in 1937, 1938 and 1939, respectively. The corresponding figures for the previous three years were 591 (1934), 616 (1935) and 704 (1936).

Police action.

106. Excluding the action taken by the railway police, the number of proceedings under sections 107, 109 and 110, Criminal Procedure Code, was as follows:—

Year	Proceedings under Cr. P. C.—		
	Section 107	Section 109	Section 110
1937	1,219	620	419
1938	1,625	641	328
1939	1,278	650	315

The figures for the previous three years were—

1934	358	668	457
1935	434	757	423
1936	1,158	839	479

Buildings.

107. In 1937, the expenditure on new and incomplete major works totalled Rs. 1,67,120. The large building scheme in Nagpur was completed and the new police lines in Raipur were finished. In 1938, the expenditure on new and incomplete major works was Rs. 1,14,067. The need for the allotment of funds for the large number of pending major and minor building works has not been overlooked and grants will be made in future for the purpose as funds permit.

Civil Justice

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar years 1937, 1938 and 1936.]

N. B.—The figures in brackets are for the year 1936.

Tribunals and character of litigation.

108. During the years under review the number of institutions in all the Courts decreased gradually to 96,901, 92,693 and 82,717 [105,495]. The total value of suits instituted consequently decreased to Rs. 1,98,14,369, Rs. 1,76,14,657 and Rs. 1,57,39,595 [Rs. 2,38,17,022]. The average value of suits instituted for the province was Rs. 204, Rs. 190 and Rs. 190 [Rs. 205]. The fall in the institutions is due mainly to fall in suits for money and movable property and this fall, in its turn, is due to the debt legislation passed by the Legislature.

Execution of decrees.

109. The total number of applications for executions pending before the Courts were 143,526, 128,281 and 120,196 [162,569] of which 114,334, 102,580 and 94,999, respectively [129,390] were disposed of. Applications were wholly infructuous in 57.8, 55.1 and 55.4 [57.6] per cent and fully satisfied in 11.1, 10.1 and 10.6 [10.1] per cent.

Appeals.

110. The number of appeals instituted in the High Court of Judicature at Nagpur during the years under review was 2,228, 2,116 and 1,934 [1,037]. The number of appeals instituted in the Courts of District Judges was 4,026, 4,259 and 4,436.

Miscellaneous.

111. The total strength of the Bar was 2,352, 2,345 and 2,384 [2,203] of whom 409, 419 and 452 [380] were Advocates. The total number of village Panchayat Courts functioning in the province was 940, 972 and 998 [922]. The institutions in these Courts were 7,653, 6,671 and 6,539 [8,709]. The Usurious Loans Act, 1918, the Central Provinces Moneylenders Act, 1934, and the Central Provinces Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial Workers Debt Act, 1936, were reported to be working satisfactorily.

Criminal Justice

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Criminal) in the Central Provinces and Berar for the calendar years 1937, 1938 and 1939.]

N. B.—The figures in the brackets are for the year 1936.

Crime.

112. During the years under review the total number of offences reported under the Indian Penal Code and under special and local laws were 47,194, 50,315 and 52,930 [49,599], respectively. The increase in the year 1938 is due to the increase in the number of offences under the special and local laws and that in the year 1939 is due to the increase in the number of offences under the Indian Penal Code.

Courts of Magistrates.

113. During the triennium there were 843, 394 and 398 [866] Magistrates. The radical fall in the number of Magistrates during the year 1938 was due to the removal of practically all the honorary magistrates in the province. In 1939, practically all the cases had to be tried by stipendiary Magistrates. In 1937, 35 per cent of cases were tried by honorary Magistrates. The percentage of cases tried summarily was 28.2, 33.3 and 35.1 [26.8] respectively. The number of persons released on probation for good conduct under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, gradually increased to 3,073, 3,323 and 4,207 [3,047] respectively. The Central Provinces Probation of Offenders Act, 1936 (I of 1936), was applied towards the close of the year 1937 to Nagpur and Akola towns, during the year 1938, it was applied to Jubbulpore, Raipur, Amraoti and Yeotmal towns and during the year 1939 it was extended to the whole province.

Sessions Courts.

114. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 309, 286 and 343 [324], of which 185, 182 and 236 were disposed of by Additional Sessions Judges. There were 18, 21 and 23 Additional Sessions Judges in the province.

Appeals and Revisions.

115. 339, 330 and 466 [339] persons appealed to the High Court of Judicature at Nagpur. The cases of 1,111, 1,163 and 913 [989] persons were dealt with by the High Court in revision. The average duration of appeals was 38.3, 40.8 and 38.3 [36.2] and that of revisions 40.9, 43.7 and 46.4 [48.4]. In the cases of 11, 17 and 27 [11] persons the sentences were enhanced and in the cases of 310, 352 and 265 [204] they were either reduced, modified or set aside. The number of cases referred to the High Court under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code, was 2, 11 and 11 [7] respectively. The number of persons whose appeals came before the Sessions Courts and Magistrates Courts was 3,376, 3,351 and 3,489 and 6,027, 5,488, and 5,943, respectively. In 70.9, 71.3 and 69.1 per cent of the appeals in the Sessions Courts and in 55.6, 54.5 and 64.5 per cent of the appeals in the Magistrates Courts, sentences remained unaltered.

Punishments.

116. The number of persons sentenced to death, whose cases came before the High Court for confirmation, was 77, 53 and 104 [76]. 17, 5 and 15 sentences of death were set aside, 52, 42 and 51 were confirmed and 139 and 25 were commuted to transportation for life or imprisonment. 47, 34 and 34 persons were executed during the years under review. 38, 51 and 51 boys were sent to the Reformatory School, Jubbulpore and 92, 90 and 54 adolescents were sent to the Borstal Institute, Narsinghpur. The number of adolescents sentenced to whipping was 145, 172 and 243.

Village Panchayats.

117. During the years under review there were 946, 976 and 1,003 Village Panchayat Benches. The total number of cases disposed of by them was 6,916, 6,308 and 6,850 [5,955].

Prisons

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the triennium 1937—39.]

Population.

118. The year 1937 opened with a population of 5,272 and 14,976 [17,545] persons were admitted during the year. The average daily number of civil prisoners was only 4.53 [19.54]. This marked diminution was due to the activities of the Debt Conciliation Boards and the slight improvement in economic conditions. 1938 opened with a population of 4,785 and 15,147 were admitted during the year. There was a marked increase in the number of admissions in 1939, which opened with a population of 4,639. The admissions during this year numbered 18,460. This unusual increase in admissions was due to the large number of arrests in connection with the Biswa Murder case, the Khamgaon Sweepers' strike, the Dondi-Lohara Forest Satyagraha and the extension of the Prohibition Act.

Discipline.

119. Discipline in the jails was satisfactory during the three years 1937—39. The reforms introduced in 1938 had the salutary effect of lowering the number of jail offences from 1,652 in 1937 to 1,316 in 1938. But the number rose to 1,715 in 1939 partly due to the rise in the jail population and partly due to the large number of transfers of superintendents and jailors and to the tendency of prisoners to take advantage of these transfers. However, there was no deterioration of discipline even in that year. During the triennium under report, 10 prisoners escaped, five from the Borstal Institution, Narsinghpur, and one from each of the jails at Akola, Buldana, Betul, Khandwa and Amraoti, but all of them were recaptured and prosecuted.

Health.

120. Except for the year 1938, the triennium was a fairly healthy one; the ratio per mille of sick of each of the three years 1937, 1938 and 1939 being 8.79, 14.05 and 12.81, respectively, and the death-rates per mille for these years being 17.00, 20.57 and 15.07, respectively.

Jail Industries.

121. The cash earnings from Jail industries amounted to Rs. 1,35,014 in 1937, an increase of Rs. 4,467 over the earnings of the previous year, but on account of the smaller number of orders received for the supply of liveries, uniforms, tents, etc., cash profits decreased by Rs. 13,500. In 1938, cash earnings rose to Rs. 2,08,826 and cash profits to Rs. 1,94,399. The increase of Rs. 59,479 in cash profits was mainly due to the large volume of printing and binding work done by the Jail Press and also to the large number of orders for tents, prison clothing, durries and chicks, etc., received and executed during the year. The abnormal and uncertain situation caused by the outbreak of war in 1939 necessitated the purchase of large quantities of raw materials with the result that cash earnings decreased from Rs. 2,08,826

to Rs. 1,61,081. In this year, however, the savings to Government by the employment of prison labour rose to Rs. 48,054 [Rs. 42,000].

Expenditure.

122. In 1937, the total expenditure was Rs. 6,82,342 [Rs. 6,90,468] and the total cost per head Rs. 138-0-11 [Rs. 130-6-2]. The decrease in the total expenditure and the increase in the total cost per head were due to a fall in the daily average strength. In 1938, the total expenditure decreased to Rs. 6,43,808 and the total cost per head rose to Rs. 142-6-2. The increase in the admissions to the jails in 1939 increased the total expenditure of the year to Rs. 6,53,536 but decreased the cost per head to Rs. 129-9-2.

General.

123. The outstanding features of the triennium 1937—39 were the jail reforms introduced in the year 1938 which are dealt with at length in the annual report of that years and the enactments of two important legislations in 1939, *viz.*, the Central Provinces and Berar Prisons (Amendment) Act, 1939 (Act X of 1939), and the Central Provinces and Berar Prisoners (Amendment) Act, 1939 (Act IV of 1939). The Central Provinces and Berar Prisons (Amendment) Act, 1939, which was repealed in 1940, recognized political prisoners as a separate class and made provision for preferential treatment being accorded to them. The Central Provinces and Berar Prisoners (Amendment) Act, 1939, provides for the release on parole of well-behaved prisoners for short periods under certain conditions, to enable them to visit their homes. The question of framing rules under the Act is under the consideration of Government.

Military—Indian Territorial Forces

124. *10th (Nagpur) Bn. U. T. C., I. T. F.*

	1938	1939	1940
The enrolled strength on 1st March was ..	326	321	319
Officers	4	4	4
Under Officers	8	7	5
Non-Commissioned Officers and men ..	314	310	310
Efficients	314	289	245
The Weapon Training Course as fired by the Unit—			
Qualified	300	289	245
Failures	19	24	64
Not exercised	7	8	10

125. The financial position of the corps continues to be sound, general health was excellent and progress satisfactory.

126. The annual camp of exercise for the year 1937-38 was at Boregaon, Nagpur, during the latter half of October 1937, the attendance in camp being four Officers and 300 other ranks. A large number of tactical exercises were included in the Camp Programme.

127. Owing to heavy rains the annual camp for the year 1938-39 was held at Kamptee from the 6th to 20th October 1938, the attendance in camp being four Officers, five Under Officers and 294 Cadets including N. C. Os. The Regular Regiments stationed at Kamptee gave a few demonstrations and the members of the Corps witnessed them with great keenness and benefit to themselves. A team of 12 members from the "A" Company, Nagpur, fired in an Army Rifle Association (India) Competition open to companies of U.T.C. units and succeeded in winning the competition. Their aggregate score was 264. The Corps received a large silver medal and every member of the team a small silver medal. In 1939-40, the annual Camp-of-Exercise was held at Kamptee from the 23rd October to 6th November 1939. The Officer Commanding, Kamptee, who inspected the Corps during the period of the Camp, was very pleased with the keenness and general efficiency of the Corps.

7.—Local Self-Government

District Council

[Triennium abstracts, 1937-38 to 1939-40.]

Number of district councils, their constitution and meetings.

128. During the triennium the number of district councils and local boards remained unchanged. The total number of meetings held in 1937-38 was 744, in 1938-39, 709; and in 1939-40, 754 [767 in 1936-37]. Of these, the number of meetings proved abortive was 94 in the year 1937-38, 90 in 1938-39 and 77 in 1939-40 [66 in 1936-37] for want of quorum. The average attendance of members in district councils and local boards was 67 [67] and 54 [53], respectively.

General financial results.

129. The total income in 1937-38 was Rs. 72,76,412, in 1938-39 Rs. 71,54,176, and in 1939-40 Rs. 78,55,138 (in 1936-37 Rs. 72,74,622). The total expenditure in the year 1937-38 was Rs. 73,35,406, in 1938-39 Rs. 75,74,575 and in 1939-40 Rs. 76,29,991 (in 1936-37 Rs. 71,43,741). The Government grant towards education in 1937-38 was Rs. 11,54,633, in 1938-39 Rs. 12,09,899 and in 1939-40 Rs. 11,68,966 (in 1936-37 Rs. 10,64,262). The grant towards civil works in 1937-38 was Rs. 86,552, in 1938-39 Rs. 80,965 and in 1939-40 Rs. 3,53,508 (in 1936-37 Rs. 64,009).

Education.

130. The expenditure including buildings was in 1937-38 Rs. 30,09,570, in 1938-39 Rs. 30,95,294 and in 1939-40 Rs. 29,68,841 (in 1936-37 Rs. 30,58,501), of which the sum of Rs. 11,54,633 in 1937-38, Rs. 12,09,899 in 1938-39 and Rs. 11,68,966 in 1939-40 (in 1936-37 Rs. 10,64,262) was covered by Government grants.

131. During the triennium there was increase in the total number of schools from 4,196 to 4,858 and in the enrolment from 305,023 to 323,159 and the average attendance increased from 236,253 to 245,721.

Medical.

132. The total expenditure on medical relief in the year 1937-38 was Rs. 3,80,674, in 1938-39 Rs. 3,78,455 and in 1939-40 Rs. 3,83,257 [in 1936-37 Rs. 3,65,907]. The number of transferred dispensaries during the triennium increased from 84 to 92.

Civil Works.

133. The total expenditure on civil works in the year 1937-38 was Rs. 8,61,170, in 1938-39 Rs. 6,58,628 and in 1939-40 Rs. 5,88,707 [in 1936-37 Rs. 7,38,400]. The total length of roads transferred to district councils for maintenance during the triennium was 1,784 [1,798] miles.

Miscellaneous.

134. The number of cattle-pounds during the triennium was 1,908 [1,798]. The income in 1937-38 was Rs. 5,29,385, in 1938-39 Rs. 4,99,003 and in 1939-40 Rs. 2,91,248 (in 1936-37 Rs. 5,18,485). The expenditure in the year 1937-38 was Rs. 3,00,007, in 1938-39 Rs. 2,85,019 and in 1939-40 Rs. 2,76,358 (in 1936-37 Rs. 2,95,767). A number of financial irregularities and embezzlements were brought to the notice in the annual reports of the Local Audit Department during the triennium.

General.

135. The most notable event during the triennium under report was the passing of the Local Self-Government Act, 1939 (XXXII of 1939), by which nominations on local boards and district councils have been completely abolished while securing the compulsory representation of Muslims, Harijans and ladies.

Relations between councils and Government officials continued to be cordial.

Municipal administration

[Triennium (1937-38 to 1939-40) abstracts.]

Number of municipal committees, their constitution and meetings.

136. During the triennium the number of municipal committees increased from 79 to 82 while that of notified area committees decreased from 20 to 18.

137. All the municipal committees except 47 [17] held the prescribed number of meetings the totai of which was 2,209 in the year 1937-38, 2,226 in 1938-39 and 2,095 in 1939-40 [2,050 in 1936-37]. The number of meetings proved abortive for want of quorum in the year 1937-38 was 391, in 1938-39, 394 and in 1939-40, 405 [355 in 1936-37]. The average attendance of members during triennium was 61 [61].

Income.

138. The total income excluding opening balance and debt heads in the year 1937-38 was Rs. 70,57,000, in 1938-39 Rs. 71,31,241 and in 1939-40 Rs. 76,45,518 [in 1936-37 Rs. 70,06,000], Government contributing Rs. 4,42,000 in the year 1937-38, Rs. 4,48,082 in 1938-39 and Rs. 4,71,247 in 1939-40

[Rs. 4,15,000 in 1936-37]. The receipts from octroi tax were Rs. 8,60,000 in 1937-38, Rs. 8,88,328 in 1938-39 and Rs. 9,29,202 in 1939-40 [Rs. 8,42,000 in 1936-37]. The receipts from terminal taxes were Rs. 15,52,000 in 1937-38, Rs. 14,88,774 in 1938-39 and Rs. 16,06,683 in 1939-40 [Rs. 16,64,000 in 1936-37]. The receipts from taxes other than octroi and terminal were Rs. 24,94,000 in 1937-38, Rs. 25,00,659 in 1938-39 and Rs. 28,04,256 in 1939-40 [Rs. 23,48,000 in 1936-37]. There was increase in the income from tax on animals and vehicles and professions and the trades in the year 1939-40 and 1938-39, respectively, while income from tax on animals and vehicles decreased in the year 1937-38 and 1938-39. There was also decrease in the income from tax on professions and trades in the year 1937-38.

139. The income of notified area committees in 1937-38 was Rs. 2,52,000, in 1938-39 Rs. 2,56,338 and in 1939-40 Rs. 2,24,187 [Rs. 1,96,000 in 1936-37].

Expenditure.

140. The total expenditure excluding extraordinary and debt heads in the year 1937-38 was Rs. 72,21,100, in 1938-39 Rs. 77,47,215 and in 1939-40 Rs. 76,53,156 [in 1936-37 Rs. 68,68,000]. The increase is shared by all heads except "General Administration" and "Collection Charges" in 1937-38, while in 1938-39 it is shared by all heads except "General Administration" and "Public Safety". There was a decrease in 1939-40 which was shared by only two heads "Public Instruction" and "Miscellaneous". The closing balances of 21, 26, 30 and 17 municipal committees were below the prescribed minimum in 1936-37, 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40, respectively.

General.

141. The triennium saw the enactment and enforcement of the following legislation effecting important changes in the system of urban local self-government :—

(1) Election of the president by adult franchise and the procedure for his removal and for the appointment and removal of vice-presidents [Central Provinces Municipalities Second Amendment Act, 1939 (XII of 1939)].

(2) Introduction of adult franchise [Central Provinces Municipalities Third Amendment Act, 1939 (XXVIII of 1939)].

(3) Abolition of the system of nominations [Central Provinces Municipalities Fourth Amendment Act, 1939 (XXXI of 1939)].

142. Relations between Government officials and municipal committees remained generally cordial.

Village Panchayats.

143. During the triennium 1937—40, 31 new village panchayats were established in the year 1937-38, 29 in 1938-39 and 40 in 1939-40. Seven panchayats were disestablished in the year 1937-38 and four in each of the two years 1938-39 and 1939-40. The total number of panchayats rose from 944 to 968 in the year 1937-38, 968 to 993 in 1938-39 and 993 to 1,029 in the year 1939-40. There was steady rise in the number of panchayats during the triennium.

144. The number of panchayat benches rose from 930 to 954 in the year 1937-38, from 954 to 987 in 1938-39 and from 987 to 1,020 in 1939-40. During the same period the village panchayat courts showed a rise from 930 to 952 in the year 1937-38, from 952 to 987 in 1938-39 and 987 to 1,020 in 1939-40.

145. The number of panchayat benches exercising enhanced powers under section 18 (2) of the Village Panchayat Act rose from 116 to 128 in the year 1937-38, fall from 128 to 121 in 1938-39 and rise from 121 to 146 in 1939-40.

146. The number of panchayat courts exercising enhanced powers under section 32 (2) remained the same, *i.e.*, 99 in the year 1937-38. There was a fall from 99 to 84 in the year 1938-39 and a rise from 84 to 99 in the year 1939-40.

147. The number of village courts exercising enhanced powers under section 54 (1) rose from 13 to 14 in the year 1937-38, fell from 14 to 13 in 1938-39 and rose from 13 to 19 in 1939-40. The panchayat benches and courts did useful work in disposing of the following cases :—

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
Criminal cases	7,115	6,798	6,823
Civil suits ..	7,906	7,393	7,126

The average duration of criminal cases and civil suits continued to be high. The panchayat benches and courts have, however, proved useful in reducing crime and litigation within their jurisdiction.

148. The percentage of panchayats levying taxes remained the same, *i.e.*, 27 per cent. Owing to bad financial position the villagers are averse to bear the burden of any additional taxation.

149. Provision for Rs. 3,500 was made for payment of initial grants for each of the three years of the triennium. Out of this a sum of Rs. 2,133 was utilized in the year 1937-38 and Rs. 2,390 in each of the two years 1938-39 and 1939-40. The balance was surrendered.

150. The total income and expenditure of panchayats is shown below :—

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Income ..	2,15,927	2,09,808	2,00,378
Expenditure ..	1,43,296	1,39,835	1,39,642

Crop failures and economic depression account for fall of income and expenditure. The panchayats did useful work such as that of improvement of water-supply and drainage, construction and repair of roads, cleaning of village sites and distribution of medicines for combating epidemic diseases, etc.

151. Twenty-one out of 24 district councils have formed sub-committees for supervision of panchayat work. Except in the year 1938-39, when the number of such sub-committees went down to 18, the figure of 21 was maintained during the triennium. All the district councils have made arrangements for audit of panchayat fund accounts, but some of them do not pay proper attention to this important part of their duty.

8.—Trade, Industries and Commerce

[Abstract under the headings Trade, Industries, and Commerce and for inclusion in the Triennial Report of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40.]

Factories Act.

152. The number of factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934, rose from 1,037 to 1,059 in 1937-38, to 1,089 in 1938-39 and to 1,140 in 1939-40, the increase being mainly in rice, oil and miscellaneous factories. Both the seasonal and perennial factories continued to make improvement with regard both to the fencing and guarding of dangerous machinery and to the provision of clothing for certain classes of workers. The number of accidents in the triennium was 601, 841 and 931 and the compensation paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to the injured persons or their dependants amounted to Rs. 2,802, Rs. 6,157 and Rs. 7,445, respectively. Under the Central Provinces Maternity Benefit Act, 1931, benefit to the extent of Rs. 8,753, Rs. 10,494 and Rs. 11,198 was paid to 535, 645 and 793 women, respectively. There was no epidemic of any type in the industrial areas.

Pools Committee.

153. Complaints having been received from time to time that owing to formation of pools, cotton ginning and pressing rates were pushed unduly high to the detriment of cotton growers who were already hard hit by the slump in prices, Government appointed in March 1938 the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Pools Committee. In order to implement the Committee's recommendation Government has enacted an Act under which Rate Fixing Committees can be appointed in certain areas for fixing the maximum rates that may be charged for ginning and pressing of cotton. The Act was brought into force on the 1st April 1940.

Industrial disputes.

154. During the triennium 7, 10 and 3 labour strikes occurred mostly in cotton mills. There were also some disputes in potteries and cement industry in the Jubbulpore district.

155. There was considerable labour unrest in the province as a result of the publication of the interim report of the Textile Labour Enquiry Committee of Bombay, and a committee, known as the Central Provinces and Berar Textile Labour Enquiry Committee was, therefore, appointed to examine the question of restoration of wage cut in cotton textile mills. After careful consideration of the recommendation of the Committee, Government published a resolution on the 16th June 1938 favouring the restoration of the actual wage cut by 60 per cent in the case of old employees and the grant of 60 per cent of the difference between the old and new rates in the case of the new employees. As a result of these measures, cotton textile workers gained about 3 lakhs of rupees annually. Towards the close of the year 1939 the rise in prices of commodities as a result of the war created a demand for dearness allowance from the employees of the

Empress and Model Mills, Nagpur, and in order to arrive at an amicable settlement, Government appointed, under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, a Court of Enquiry presided over by Mr. N. Clarke, Esq., I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, Nagpur. This Court of Inquiry came to the conclusion that no dearness allowance should be given to the workers in the textile industry at Nagpur. The decision led the workers to resort to strike followed by lock-out. The issue of a communiqué, dated the 20th April 1940, which announced Government's decision to appoint a committee to examine the whole question of the payment of dearness allowance to textile workers in the light of the decision arrived at in the Bombay and Ahmedabad disputes however induced the workers to resume work.

Bidi Industry.

156. In the bidi industry there was one strike in 1938-39 and 25 in 1939-40. The greatest number of disputes occurred in the districts in which the Unregulated Factories Act and the Payment of Wages Act were applied to bidi factories. Consequently a Bidi Inquiry Committee was constituted by Government in September 1939 in order that the conditions obtaining in the industry should be thoroughly investigated and studied by a representative committee before Government could take action for the removal of the grievances.

Trade Unions.

157. During the triennium 13, 9 and 7 new trade unions were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. The total number of trade unions rose from 19 to 28 in 1937-38, to 36 in 1938-39 and to 42 in 1939-40.

Electricity Act.

158. The total capacity of electric generating plants installed in licensed undertakings and factories increased from 34,074 to 36,258 K. W. in 1937-38, to 36,494 K. W. in 1938-39 and to 38,124 K. W. in 1939-40, the number of electric motors, from 2,126 to 2,282, 2,658 and 2,884 during the triennium and the number of towns supplied with electric energy from 18 to 20, 23 and 24, respectively. Sixty-one permanent and 38 temporary cinema installations were inspected from time to time to enforce compliance with the revised Cinematograph Rules which were brought into force from 1st January 1939. During the triennium 9, 7 and 11 accidents occurred, of which 15 were fatal. The fatal accidents were due to carelessness on the part of workers concerned in handling electric apparatus and not to infringement of rules on the part of supply companies.

Cottage Industries.

159. The peripatetic weaving staff consisting of two weaving teachers, two power-loom teachers and 16 cotton weavers visited 172, 188 and 196 weaving centres during the triennium and introduced 383, 304 and 342 sleys and 102, 51 and 94 dobbies.

The progressive total of improved appliances introduced by this branch was 19,706 sleys and 3,203 dobbies. Sixty-two, 56 and 50 fly-shuttle sleys and 22, 8 and 69 dobbies were introduced among the Kosa weavers of Bilaspur district. Experiments in weaving artistic varieties were continued in the Government Experimental Weaving Shed at Itwari, Nagpur. The number of power-loom factories in the province rose from 70 to 99, 187 and 198 and looms from 273 to 356, 544 and 584. The dyeing and printing demonstrator continued to give demonstrations in the modern methods of dyeing and printing and visited 37, 24 and 34 centres of which, 9, 9 and 10 were new. The staff gave 195, 121 and 169 demonstrations and trained 242, 111 and 306 persons, respectively. The textile branch and the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Co-operative Society participated in several exhibitions held in and outside the province and a number of gold and silver medals and cash prizes were won.

160. The share of this province from the Government of India grant for the development of handloom industry was Rs. 24,000 for 1937-38, Rs. 24,400 for 1938-39 and Rs. 35,255 for 1939-40. The grant is being utilised in financing the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Co-operative Society at Nagpur with a branch at Kamptee and other affiliated societies in the province.

161. A scheme for the introduction of sericultural (Tasar or Kosa silk) industry financed by the Government of India during 1938-39 was introduced in the province. *The tasar or kosa* industry work is concentrated in the Chanda and Bhandara districts where the industry still exists and is directed from the seed-distributing stations at Amraoti and Sonder. The seed produced at the two stations was distributed to rearers and a part of it was reared in leased forests. As rearing of tasar worms is done on trees in forests, the results depend on the climatic conditions, excess of rain, drought or severe cold being detrimental to good rearing. The results for 1938-39 were satisfactory but those for 1939-40 were not so encouraging as expected owing to unfavourable weather conditions.

162. The scheme for the introduction of mulberry silk industry was financed partly from the Government of India grant and partly from provincial revenues during 1939-40. The work of plantation of mulberry at the five seed distribution centres at Nagpur, Seoni, Betul, Saugor, and Pendra Road was completed during the year. Silk worm rearing is done at the above stations with the available quantity of leaves. Over 10 lb. of seed valued at Rs. 80 was produced. Mulberry cuttings were supplied for plantation to Government agricultural farms. A number of enquiries have been received from people interested in starting the industry.

163. Experiments in Eri-silk rearing were undertaken at the Nagpur station along with mulberry silk worms during 1939-40. Two broods were successfully reared and over 10 lb. of cocoons were produced. Eri-silk worms thrive on castor leaves and agriculturists who cultivate castor for seed can utilise the leaves for feeding the worms and can take up this industry without extra cost.

164. Experiments to spin better quality of yarn and weaving of blankets, carpets, etc., from local wool were carried out during 1938-39 and 1939-40 and demonstrations given in village uplift classes and exhibitions. A scheme for the development of cottage and small scale woollen industry was submitted to the Government of India for grant-in-aid for the development of this industry.

165. The Emporium located in the Central Museum at Nagpur continued to stock, display and sell products of local industries. The number of commercial and industrial enquiries replied to during the triennium were 238, 238, 237 and 250.

166. The demand for industrial education continued to be keen and one new aided industrial school at Deori in the Bhandara district was opened in 1937-38 and one school each at Khandwa in the Nimar district and at Darwha in the Yeotmal district was opened during 1938-39. There are now three Government and ten Government aided industrial schools in the province. In addition to these, two Cottage Industries Institutions providing training in cotton-weaving, carpet-and durrie-weaving, toy-making and lacquer work and cane and basket manufacture have been attached to the Industrial Schools at Jubbulpore and Akola during 1938-39. The average number of pupils admitted to and passed out during the triennium was 249 and 166 respectively, of these 87 were carpenters, 56 smiths, 10 tailors, 8 cotton weavers, 6 durrie weavers, 2 toy makers, 3 cane workers and 5 mochis.

The mining class at Chandametta had to be closed down in September 1939 as the part-time teacher and principal of the class did not agree to accept the reduced remuneration of Rs. 100 recommended by the Retrenchment Committee.

The mochi class at Nagpur continues to attract pupils of the chamar caste.

In the Reformatory School at Jubbulpore an average number of 59 were taught carpentry, 31 tailoring, 35 gardening and 6 cane work and basketry. The health of the boys was good.

The system of granting industrial scholarships for training in institutions outside the province was continued.

167. The All-India Village Industries Association maintains a village industries school at Maganwadi, Wardha, in which training is given in paper-making, oil-pressing, date palm gur-making and bee-keeping in a combined course of 10 months. Twelve pupils selected by the Department are deputed to the school for training in the above industries with effect from the 1st May 1938, and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,800 (at Rs. 150 per pupil) was sanctioned by Government. The Association provides for the training, boarding and lodging of pupils.

168. The Government Leather Tanning School, Nagpur, was leased out to three persons but none of them could run it profitably and had to give up the lease. A dead cattle institute was started in 1938-39 in the buildings of the Government Leather Tanning School under the supervision of Mr. G. R. Valunjkar, who conducts the Gosewa Charmalaya, Wardha, to

provide training in the art of flaying and curing of raw hides, flesh manure manufacture, extraction of fat and manufacture of bone-meal. The institute was closed from 1st March 1940 as it worked at a loss. Similarly, a scheme for the training of village chamars in the use of offal and skin flaying was started in 1938-39 under the supervision of Mr. Valunjkar. The scheme was divided into two parts, *viz.*—

(1) disposal of dead carcasses in rural areas, and

(2) bone-meal propaganda.

Two centres were opened at Wardha and Yeotmal and propaganda work was carried on in the four districts of Mandla, Balaghat, Wardha and Yeotmal. Propaganda for encouraging the preparation of bone-meal was discontinued in 1939-40 as private individuals were not prepared to take a lead. Part (1) of the scheme was continued but the main difficulty in securing dead animals was the opposition from kotwars. The chances for the success of the scheme under Government patronage appear to be remote.

169. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 21,760 for 1938-39 and Rs. 22,260 for 1939-40 to the All-India Spinners' Association for the encouragement of hand-spinning and hand-weaving in rural areas was sanctioned. The scheme is worked by the Central Provinces and Maharashtra Charkha Sangh, Wardha. It provides for the distribution of magan charkhas, training of pupils and workers and commission to agents for pushing on the sale of khadi in the province.

Miscellaneous.

The Board of Industries continued to give valuable advice on industrial matters.

The index-numbers showing changes in the cost of living of industrial workers at Nagpur and Jubbulpore continued to be published every month in the *Central Provinces and Berar Gazette*.

170. A loan of Rs. 15,000 was sanctioned in 1938-39 to the Central Potteries, Limited, Nagpur, under the Central Provinces and Berar State Aid to Industries Act, 1933, for discharging a portion of high rated debts of the company and for the purchase of machinery for starting the manufacture of porcelain and sanitary ware departments. The All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha, was supplied wood at concessional rates for the manufacture of improved type of oil ghanis for distribution among village telis at cost price during 1939-40.

171. A committee consisting of 12 members under the chairmanship of Mr. J. C. Kumarappa was appointed by Government during 1938-39 to carry out an industrial survey of the province. In all 606 villages with a total population of over 15 lakhs were surveyed. Two volumes of the first part of the Committee's report and the first volume of the second part have been published while the second volume of the second part is under preparation.

9.—Mining

[Consolidated abstract regarding mining for inclusion in the General Administration Department Report for the triennium 1937—40.]

172. The improvement in the manganese trade which commenced in 1935 continued during the first half of the triennium, after which the market became unsettled and underwent sharp fluctuations. A slump in manganese rates set in in the beginning of 1939 but revived to some extent in the latter half of 1940. The conditions in the coal industry were generally satisfactory throughout. The outstanding event so far as limestone quarries is concerned was the amalgamation of the three cement factories in Jubbulpore district into the Associated Cement Company of Bombay. This, coupled with a falling off in the overseas demand, led to a reduction in the number of limestone quarries. Due to lack of demand from overseas the output of bauxite also suffered a contraction.

173. The total number of working mines and the provincial receipts from mines during the calendar years 1937, 1938 and 1939 were as under—

	Total number of working mines	Total receipts from mines
		Rs.
1937	117	4,22,093
1938	140	6,98,387
1939	140	5,91,707

The marked increase in receipts in 1938 was mainly due to the restoration of the original rate of dead rent of Rs. 5 per acre per annum for manganese. The unsettled conditions in the manganese market are reflected in the fall of revenue in 1939, manganese alone being responsible for a decrease of about Rs. 1,60,000 which the increased income from other minerals was unable to make up.

174. The relations between labourers and employers were generally cordial, there being no strikes or industrial disputes during the years under review. Labour was as usual local and was adequate, except in the Chhindwara district where occasional difficulty was experienced during sowing and harvesting seasons.

175. The dispensaries opened by various concessionaires are doing useful service in providing medical aid to the mining population and in combating epidemics. Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company and the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company are the two important concessionaires who have provided housing facilities for their employees. In the Jubbulpore district Messrs. Burn and Company, Associated Cement Company, Limited, and the Perfect Potteries have provided quarters for workers. Some of the concessionaires maintained schools for the children of the workers.

176. The following table gives the statistics of fatal and other accidents and of cases under Workmen's Compensation Act and the compensation paid, during the period under review :—

Year	Fatal	Other accidents	Total	Number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act	Amount paid as compensation
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
					Rs.
1937	20	85	105	40	7,200
1938	38	115	153	43	9,580
1939	25	105	130	41	7,172

Although most of the accidents are attributed to misadventure and chance Government feels that there is much scope for improvement on the part of concessionaires in the conditions which affect the safety of the workers.

177. But for petty cases of theft and house-breaking in certain districts and a sharp increase in crime in 1939 in the Chhindwara district the moral condition of the mining labourers was on the whole satisfactory.

178. The number of prosecutions instituted under the Indian Mines Act during the years under review was 4, 24 and 26, respectively.

10.—Forests

[Abstract of the Forest Administration Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the triennium 1937-38 to 1939-40.]

[*N.B.*—The figures in brackets are for the year 1936-37.]

Forest area.

179. The total area under the control of the department was 19,411, 19,432, 19,432 [19,413] square miles.

Demarcation and Survey.

180. In 1937-38, the Survey of India party was engaged on a topographical survey to the scale of 1″ = 1 mile in the sal ranges of the Raipur division. No forest survey was undertaken in 1938-39 and 1939-40.

Working plans.

181. New working plans were sanctioned for an area of 779 square miles in Yeotmal division, 514 square miles in North Raipur subdivision, 925 square miles in Seoni division, 662 square miles in Chhindwara and 559 square miles in Bhandara division during the period.

Forest Communications.

182. Seventy-five, 30 and 15 [66] miles of new roads were constructed at a cost of Rs. 25,557, Rs. 16,824 and Rs. 9,872 [Rs. 28,350], respectively. The cost of maintenance during the period was as below:—

Year		Number of miles	Cost of maintenance
			Rs.
1937-38	.. ..	10,384	1,10,703
1938-39	.. ..	10,224	1,13,663
1939-40	.. ..	10,534	1,19,290
[1936-37]	.. ..	[10,114]	[1,13,550]

Raipur Forest Tramway.

183. The gross earnings of the tramway amounted to Rs. 1,38,135, Rs. 1,56,199, Rs. 1,85,834 [Rs. 1,35,507]. Working expenses during the period were Rs. 99,655, Rs. 1,01,047, Rs. 1,03,061 [Rs. 80,642], respectively. The tramway thus yielded an annual surplus of Rs. 38,440, Rs. 55,152, Rs. 82,773 [Rs. 54,865] during three years. The surplus covered the depreciation charges but was not sufficient to cover the full interest charges.

Forest buildings.

184. Rs. 25,382, Rs. 2,569 and Rs. 6,565 [Rs. 10,145] were spent on the construction of new buildings and Rs. 64,315, Rs. 65,389 and Rs. 68,288 [Rs. 64,689] on repairs to the existing buildings. The construction of wells, etc., accounted for Rs. 17,018, Rs. 13,663, and Rs. 14,165 [Rs. 14,747].

Forest offences.

185. The number of forest offences was 25,165, 24,266 and 26,539 [28,816]. The total number of cases dealt with under section 68 of the Indian Forest Act was 21,458, 20,108, 21,468 [24,331]. The total area under fire protection was 14,848, 15,429, 15,503 square miles [160,086]. The number of cattle impounded was 4,607, 4,052, 2,690 [6,766].

Grazing.

186. As a measure of relief to agriculturists, a general reduction of 25 per cent in the privileged and ordinary grazing rates was ordered throughout the province with effect from the 1st April 1938 wherever the existing rates were more than one anna and six pies per head of cattle. Reduction in the commercial grazing rates in Nimar and Seoni was sanctioned. The period of the grazing year (1st July to 30th June) was also changed to 1st April—31st March and the Berar system of patwari lists was substituted for grazing certificates issued by the patwari as an experimental measure in all the districts of Central Provinces.

The following concessions were also granted in backward tracts of the province:—

(1) free extraction of fuel by head loads.

(2) free extraction of grass from localities where the demand was small, and

(3) free removal of mohwa, achar, tendu, aonla, edible roots and tubers.

The general reduction in the grazing rates covered a loss of Rs. 79,585 in grazing revenue in 1938-39 and Rs. 60,420 in 1939-40 while the value of the produce extracted free under the above concessions was Rs. 4,642 during 1938-39. The collection of grazing dues was deferred in all forest divisions of Berar except the Melghat taluq during the period. The total number of animals grazed in Government forests was 3,010,397, 3,102,937 and 2,977,935 [2,974,964]. During 1939-40 a sum of Rs. 5,000 was spent on the construction of pucca masonry bunds at selected sites to ensure water-supply to cattle brought for grazing in Government forests. In 1940-41 no provision on this account could be made due to financial stringency.

With a view to encouraging sheep farming areas totalling 777 square miles were set aside for *gwari* grazing of sheep. In order to encourage stall feeding of agricultural cattle—considered by many to be the only solution of the grazing question of this province—experiments on silage operations are being made in the grass areas along the Raipur Forest Tramway during 1938-39.

Silviculture, Exploitation and Management.

187. The progress of regeneration was satisfactory. Thinning and cutting back operations were carried out over an area of 120,793, 129,489, 158,133 [117,023] acres yielding a revenue of Rs. 3,63,400, Rs. 3,14,033, Rs. 2,94,531 [Rs. 2,76,706], respectively. The value of major produce extracted by all agencies was Rs. 27,99,554, Rs. 29,58,099 and Rs. 30,50,705 [Rs. 27,73,901] and that of minor produce Rs. 32,62,283, Rs. 31,51,906 and Rs. 31,04,748 [Rs. 31,82,734]. The total earnings under both these heads increased by Rs. 1,05,102, Rs. 48,168 and Rs. 45,448 [Rs. 74,135]. The departmental timber operations in Hoshangabad, Nimar and the Melghat now (Amraoti) divisions were extended and they brought in a substantial revenue of Rs. 5,05,030, Rs. 5,54,381 and Rs. 5,96,854 [Rs. 4,31,899]. Receipts from sales of timber at Ballarshah, Allapilli and Pedigundum were Rs. 3,98,411, Rs. 3,90,094 and Rs. 4,41,721 [Rs. 3,46,542].

As a measure of economy the Amraoti division was abolished in the year 1939-40 and its ranges were distributed between the Melghat and Betul divisions.

In order to improve the efficiency of forest guards and increase their utility to the public, a system of local training for all junior forest guards was introduced in 1938-39. As forest guards have to serve under most onerous conditions an increase in their minimum salary by Re. 1 was sanctioned at the close of the year 1938-39. It was also decided to supply each forest guard annually with a pair of shoes at a cost of Rs. 2.

Forest villages.

188. There were 1,115, 1,113, 1,102 [1,108] forest villages with a population of 118,995, 121,139 118,986 [118,422]. The condition of these villages was generally satisfactory. 13, 21 and 9 new schools for primary education were opened during the period in the forest villages.

Preservation of wild life.

189. The Central Provinces Game Act and the Wild Birds and the Animals Protection Act succeeded to some extent in protecting wild life. The general condition of the game in absolute sanctuaries was satisfactory.

Financial results.

190. The gross income from Government forests in the province amounted to Rs. 50,50,094, Rs. 48,68,288, Rs. 50,43,788 [Rs. 47,63,565] against an expenditure of Rs. 37,07,293, Rs. 34,38,165, Rs. 35,36,581 [Rs. 36,39,370] leaving a surplus of Rs. 13,42,801, Rs. 13,80,123, Rs. 15,07,207 [Rs. 11,24,195].

Forest benevolent fund.

191. A fund called the Forest Benevolent Fund was established in 1937-38 with the object of relieving distress amongst the dependants of the subordinate staff. The financial position of the fund was satisfactory. The balance in the fund at the close of the financial year during the triennium was Rs. 3,935-2-5, Rs. 6,785-0-2 and Rs. 2,982-12-11.

11.—Public Works

Central Provinces and Berar Public Works Department

[Abstract of the Administration Report of the Buildings and Roads Branch for the triennium 1937—40.]

192. The expenditure on works and repairs from the Road Development Fund was Rs. 21,46,548. The total expenditure to end of the triennium was Rs. 58,76,431 against a programme of Rs. 92,45,600 approved by the Government of India.

The details are as follows :—

——	Amount of approved programme	Expenditure to end of March 1937	Expenditure during 1937-38	1938-39	1939-4	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central Provinces share.	79,83,200	19,23,949	1,85,604	4,31,781	4,58,278	29,99,612
Government of India reserve	12,62,400	6,63,320	2,43,768	1,96,240	48,020	11,51,348
Loan ..	..	11,42,614	5,82,89	—40	..	17,25,471
Total ..	92,45,600	37,29,883	10,12,269	6,27,981	5,06,298	58,76,431

The loan programme was closed on the 1st April 1938 and all works are now financed from the Central Provinces share of the Government of India reserve.

193. Tar and bitumen surfaces were provided near towns and villages where dust was a nuisance and where it was economical to do so. The mileage of class I roads increased from 5,072 to 5,322 miles while the mileage of class II and III roads decreased from 2,067 to 1,922 miles. These figures do not include roads maintained by the district councils from their own funds.

194. An expenditure of Rs. 6,78,477 was incurred on the new High Court building at Nagpur against an estimate of Rs. 7,40,809. The work is financed from a loan from the Government of India and is classed under "81—Civil Works—Not charged to revenue".

195. The expenditure on works and repairs other than those financed from the Road Fund was as follows:—

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Central (Buildings)—			
Original Works	37,626	52,621	3,680
Repairs	24,333	21,211	18,659
2. Provincial—			
(*a*) Buildings—			
Original Works	7,24,183	3,94,029	2,08,023
Repairs	5,36,343	4,81,040	4,86,900
(*b*) Communications—			
Original Works	78,126	60,065	47,730
Repairs	26,31,816	24,42,949	24,17,300
(*c*) Miscellaneous—			
Original Works	313	201	5,698
Repairs	640	609	1,201
3. 81.—Civil Works—Not charged to revenue—			
Original Works—			
(i) Buildings	1,80,220	2,50,064	2,08,179
(ii) Communications ..	5,82,897	—40	..
4. Tools and Plant—			
Ordinary revenue	..	1,61,465	1,66,349
5. Grant-in-aid—			
Ordinary revenue	301	1,530	19,079
Suspense..	..	63,026	—53,213
Famine Relief	3,354	3,646	2,33,831
Contributional Works	40,958	24,919	13,676
Rural Development	19,338	..	..
Other heads	49,766	41,230	34,623

One hundred and thirty-two major works were taken in hand and of this 106 were completed and the remaining 26 were in progress at the end of the three years.

12.—Irrigation

[Abstract of the Administration Report of the Irrigation Branch for the triennium 1937—40.]

Area under irrigation.

196. The areas irrigated and assessed during the triennium and the areas under agreement were as follows:—

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
	Acres	Acres	Acres
(1) Area irrigated ..	317,391	324,898	375,135
(2) Area assessed ..	313,556	334,780	381,227
(3) Area under agreement.	326,042	337,340	389,322

197. The term of many irrigation agreements ended in 1938 and unless they were freely renewed the revenue would decrease. Government therefore considered it advisable to lower the water rates and rates just sufficient to cover working expenses and establishment were fixed for all the large and most of the smaller works. These concession rates were sanctioned for a limited period and were effective except in Bilaspur and Balaghat. Subsequently in 1939-40 a sliding scale was sanctioned to cover the gap between the concession and normal water rates.

Works.

198. No new projects were taken up during the triennium.

Expenditure.

199. The capital expenditure on major irrigation works in the three years on the construction of minors, water-courses and bridges was as follows:—

Year.		Rs.
1937-38	..	24,179
1938-39	...	13,354
1939-40	...	19,768

There was a set-off of Rs. 26,089 (Rs. 20,390 during 1937-38 and Rs. 5,699 during 1938-39) received from the sale of special tools and plant and inspection huts.

Revenue.

200. The gross assessed revenue, the remission granted and the net revenue during the triennium were as follows:—

Year	Gross assessed revenue (lakhs)	Remission granted (lakhs)	Net revenue (lakhs)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38 ..	10.27	0.40	9.87
1938-39 ..	7.59	0.18	7.41
1939-40 ..	7.60	0.11	7.49

The cost of maintenance and working expenses of all major tanks and canals and the excess of revenue over working expenses were as under :—

Year		Cost of maintenance (lakhs)	Profit of revenue over working expenses (lakhs)
		Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	..	5.81	3.03
1938-39	..	5.70	.87
1939-40	..	5.15	1.48

13.—Agriculture and Crops

201. Receipts, contributions and expenditure in the Department of Agriculture during the three years ending 31st March 1940 were as detailed below :—

Year	Receipts	Contributions from Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	Contributions from Indian Central Cotton Committee	Total expenditure	Net cost of the department to the province
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38 ..	2,00,340	54,412	78,615	10,13,343	6,79,976
1938-39 ..	2,14,763	49,454	67,586	10,04,037	6,72,234
1939-40 ..	2,42,301	46,010	31,989	9,92 519	6,72,219

Agricultural Education.

202. The increasing demand for admission to the College of Agriculture resulted in more students being admitted than could be accommodated in the College Hostel, and a certain number were therefore permitted to live outside. The number of students who appeared for and passed the Degree and Intermediate examinations was as under—

Year	B.Sc. (Agr.) Number appeared	B.Sc. (Agr.) Number passed	Intermediate Number appeared	Intermediate Number passed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1937-38	29	16	58	44
1938-39	31	22	57	36
1939-40	45	27	65	43
Total ..	105	65	180	123

The total number of boys on the roll of the Anglo-Hindi Agricultural Middle Schools at Powarkhera and Betul and the number appeared for and passed in the final examination were as follows :—

Name of the school	Year	Total number on the roll	Final examination Number appeared	Number passed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Robertson Anglo-Hindi Agricultural Middle School, Powarkhera	1937-38	75	16	13
	1938-39	62	14	13
	1939-40	68	19	17
2. Anglo-Hindi Agricultural Middle School, Betul.	1937-38	58	16	14
	1938-39	58	14	12
	1939-40	83	11	9

Instruction in carpentry has been added to the curriculum in both schools, and in smithy work also at Betul. The Buldana Peace Memorial School has been closed owing to lack of funds.

Research and Experimental Work.

203. The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Northern Circle, has undertaken important investigations, the objective of which is to evolve a satisfactory sampling technique for estimating crop yields. Other experimental work in the circles has brought out that manuring of wheat with artificials is profitable under certain conditions; that double cropping is profitable provided organic manure is applied, and that new fruit crops, *e.g.*, grape fruit, figs and grapes can be grown successfully in certain parts of the province. Trials of new varieties of cane bred at Coimbatore show that CO312 and CO313 are likely to be even more successful than the popular Coimbatore varieties already established in the province. The dry method of planting cane proved a success in the Kachar soil of Bilaspur farm. Investigations into the economics and converting cane into sugar proved that the cultivator gets about Rs. 45 per acre more by turning his cane into sugar and molassine gur than by manufacturing gur alone.

Botanical Research.

204. Intensive research was rendered possible through schemes financed wholly or partly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Central Committee and valuable results were obtained. Work on the following crops was in progress throughout the period :—

205. **Cotton.**—Research proceeded along lines approved by the Indian Central Cotton Committee which continues to give generous financial help for work on this crop. This work was reorganized with effect from the 1st April 1939. In the new arrangement the former combined research scheme has been split up into two separate schemes, one located at Nagpur and the other at Akola. The former will devote itself to the production of types suitable for Nagpur division while the latter will be concerned with cotton types for Berar and Nimar.

206. The main achievements under the old scheme were the evolving of two cotton strains—Verum 434 and Buri 107. Verum 434 is now extending very rapidly in the Khandwa, Harsud, Mehkar, Chikhli, Basim and Pusad tahsils, and to some extent also in other parts of the province. Buri 107 is specially suited to the Burhanpur tahsil and it is hoped that it will shortly occupy the whole area formerly covered by other American types in that tahsil. It is hoped that as a result of the re-organization of research work mentioned above it will be possible either to further improve the existing standard varieties or to obtain even better strains.

207. **Wheat.**—Research on this crop has hitherto been the responsibility of the Second Economic Botanist. A separate research scheme for wheat, the cost of which will be shared equally between the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and the Provincial Government will be put into operation in June 1941. The main object of the scheme is to evolve rust-resistant varieties of good cropping power. The Department already has certain varieties which resist rust to a certain degree but which are by no means fully immune. Some promising selections and hybrids have been evolved recently by the Second Economic Botanist out of local and foreign breeding material and these will form a useful starting point for the new scheme.

208. The Second Economic Botanist is also responsible for research work on gram, mung, urid, castor, soya bean, etc., and natural grasses. Work on the improvement of pastures has been undertaken under the Telinkheri and Ambajheri catchment areas in collaboration with the Forest Department.

209. **Rice.**—Very substantial financial assistance has been given by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for research on this crop. As a result of hybridization work and selections made from among 550 varieties of paddy, 15 proved high-yielding varieties of early, medium and late rices suitable for each of the three main rice-growing tracts of the province have been established. Several of these belong to the fine and scented class. The variety *Ajan* gave, on an average of five years, an increased yield of about 24 per cent over Surmatia which is the standard late variety of the Chhattisgarh tract. Strains of uniform quality and improved cropping power have been isolated from most of the selected varieties and hybridization work continues to effect further improvement in their yield. One of the problems of Chhattisgarh is the prevalence of wild rice-karga. During the period of vegetative growth the weed cannot be distinguished from paddy and it cannot therefore be weeded out in time to prevent serious economic loss. Reduction of this loss is one of the objectives of the Rice Research Station and it has already been attained to some extent by the production of hybrid rices with dark purple auricles which distinguish them from karga in the seedling stage. A more complete solution of the karga problem is hoped for from another set of hybrids the seedlings of which are entirely purple and can thus be very easily distinguished from the green karga seedlings.

210. **Oilseeds.**—In order to evolve types of linseed, sesam, niger and safflour which will combine the qualities of good yield, high oil percentage, good quality oil, and resistance to pests and

diseases, intensive research was started since 1937 under a five-year scheme financed entirely by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

211. Considerable progress has been made in selection and acclimatization of promising varieties. Alongside the botanical work, the Oilseeds Specialist has given a good deal of attention to the problem of finding economic uses for linseed fibre, with highly promising results.

212. **Sann-hemp.**—Cultural-*cum*-processing investigations carried out during this period have yielded significant positive results.

Chemical Research.

213. Besides carrying out an increasing volume of general analytical and advisory work, the Section carried out investigations relating to the standardizing of methods of soil analysis and determining seasonal variations in the natural moisture content of wheat in collaboration with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Other investigations related to methods of improving the keeping quality and the colour of gur, and formulating statistically sound methods of estimating crop yield. Particular attention was paid to the various problems connected with sugarcane, such as analysis of sugarcane varieties, to find out the type which had the highest percentage of sugar, determining the period when the various varieties reach their maximum sucrose content and when deterioration in quality begins to set in and investigations into methods of improving the keeping quality and the colour of gur.

Experiments were also conducted—

(1) to determine the comparative values of certain legumes as nitrogen recuperators and the effect of crop rotation on the nitrogen content of the soil,

(2) to determine the effect of rations on yield and quality of milk.

214. A study of the fluctuations in the carotenoid content of cow and buffalo butter showed that cow butter was considerably richer in carotenoids than buffalo butter. Trials with cultures of gram nodule bacteria proved conclusively that inoculated gram seed produced a better crop and gave remarkably higher yields than those obtained from uninoculated seed.

Mycological Research.

215. Treatment of seeds of various crops prior to sowing in order to immunise them against diseases constituted the main activity of this Section in which positive results were secured in several instances. Dusting of cotton seed with certain fugicides had a salutary effect on yield increasing it from 8 per cent to 26 per cent. Experiments with exposure of juar seed to the hot summer sun to control the incidence of juar grain smut indicated that the necessity of dusting infected seed with fungicides like copper carbonate and sulphur could not be entirely dispensed with. Sprays were used effectively on growing crops of groundnut and pan and citrus orchards. Several pan gardens in Mandla district were treated successfully for footrot and anthracnose and the growers convinced of its usefulness. A survey and study of

wheat rust epidemology financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was undertaken. A five-year research scheme for the investigation of pan problems in the province has been sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and work has recently been started at Ramtek.

Entomological Research.

216. This branch was made an independent unit in 1938 and strengthened by the addition of two technical assistants and a clerk. The important items of work tackled by it included measures for protecting stored grain against insect damage, control of the *Indarbela* pest of oranges, investigations on the cotton caterpillar (*Heliothis obsoleta*) at Akola Farm, dusting of paris green in paddy fields in Chhattisgarh in order to observe its effect on yield and as a larvicide for mosquitoes. A campaign against *Gangai* pest of rice which caused extensive damage was carried out successfully by organizing crop-protection societies and the damage was reduced from 12 annas to 2 annas. Public interest in bee-keeping was stimulated by securing the co-operation of the Nagpur District Village Uplift Committee and several colonies were captured and established. Further encouragement was given by organizing classes of instruction in bee-keeping methods and by forming a Provincial Bee-keepers' Association.

Economics and Marketing.

217. Work in the five-year programme of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was in operation, and the following 14 survey reports were compiled and submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India:—

(1) Co-operative marketing.
(2) Hides and Skins.
(3) Grapes.
(4) Coffee.
(5) Groundnut.
(6) Cocoanut.
(7) Barley.
(8) Maize.
(9) Sugar.
(10) Markets and fairs.
(11) Potatoes.
(12) Oranges.
(13) Ghee and Butter.
(14) Lac.

Reports on gram, rape and mustard were under compilation; surveys on mangoes, sheep and goat, wool and hair and fish were in progress. Grading of oranges was conducted in the Nagpur orange market and over 7,000 baskets were graded in 1937-38, 8,000 in 1938-39, and 5,700 in 1939-40, which fetched on an average of 6 to 8 per cent higher price than ungraded fruit. Oranges of different types and maturity sent to the Cold Storage Research Laboratory, Kirkee, for study of their Vitamin C content showed that fully ripe oranges could be preserved in good condition for about 2 months at 40° F. and that the Vitamin C content was not affected by cold storage. Grade specifications for Chinoor and

Hansa varieties of rices and for AK10 groundnut were forwarded to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, Delhi, and specifications for Verum cotton were drafted. Grading of eggs was carried out at two stations in Nagpur where 23,000 eggs were graded.

Introduction and Marketing of improved cottons.

218. The area under Verum 434 and Buri 107 in the province was as under—

In the Burhanpur tahsil.

Year		Area under V. 434	Area under Buri 107
		Acres	Acres
1937-38	..	47,000	..
1938-39	..	62,032	2,000
1939-40	..	138,425	10,000

The Cotton Marketing Section financed partly by the Indian Central Cotton Committee and Government pooled and sold pure verum cotton as detailed below at prices noted against them. The premiums obtained ranged from about Rs. 23 to Rs. 43 over Broach and about Rs. 51 to Rs. 58 over Oomra :—

Year		Number of bales	Average price per khandi f.o.r. Bombay Rs.	a.	p.
1937-38	..	4,575	212	5	0
1938-39	..	5,482	199	0	0
1939-40	..	8,246	298	7	0

Extension work.

219. Distribution of improved seed, sale of implements and practical demonstrations constituted as usual the main activities of demonstration and propaganda work. The number of seed farms increased from 27,040 in 1937-38 to over 32,000 in 1939-40 and nearly 5½ lakhs of maunds of improved seed of all varieties were distributed in that year. The area sown with improved seed during the period ranged between 20 lakhs and 22 lakhs of acres, yielding an increased outturn estimated roughly to the extent of 62 lakhs of rupees. Improved implements worth about Rs. 1½ lakhs were sold every year. Special attention paid to promote an interest in fruit and vegetable cultivation resulted in the sale of about 1½ lakhs of fruit plants every year and in establishing many new orchards.

Vidya Mandirs.

220. A novel method for providing education to rural children was inaugurated in April 1938 in the form of a Vidya Mandir Scheme, and the Agriculture Department was entrusted with the onerous task of examining all offers of land donated for the purpose to see whether they could yield an income of Rs. 200, sufficient to support the vidya mandir guru. 398 such offers were examined and 98 recommended to Government for acceptance

All the plots approved by Government have been brought under cultivation by this department and have been under its management. The department is associated with 87 such plots.

Rural Development.

221. The Government of India grant for rural development was utilized for constructing godowns for the storage and co-operative sale of agricultural produce. Five such godowns were constructed, three in Chhattisgarh for rice and two in Nagpur district for oranges. The former worked in conjunction with the Co-operative Growers' Associations and the latter in conjunction with the Nagpur District Orange Growers' Association.

Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Activities.

222. During the period under review considerable progress was made in the control of rinderpest which continues to be a major problem for cattle health. The cheap and effective method of immunization by means of the recently evolved goat virus method of vaccination has had a fairly extensive trial and the results achieved have been uniformly satisfactory. Considerable care is, however, necessary in the proper use of this extremely fragile product and measures are being adopted for perfecting the technique and familiarising the staff with the likely drawbacks in the field. A three-year scheme for detailed investigation into the practical application of this method for prophylaxis and control of rinderpest in the field was completed during the period under report with the assistance of the funds provided by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. As a result of this comprehensive field investigation, valuable results have been obtained and the efficacy of this method of protection has been illustrated by the fact that the average mortality due to rinderpest for the four years ending 1939-40 was 9,084 (1936-37, 8.608: 1937-38, 8,015; 1938-39, 8,057; 1939-40, 11,659) against 17.238 (1935-36, 5,696; 1934-35, 6,000; 1933-34. 25,449; 1932-33, 31,807) the average of the previous four years. The total number of animals immunized during the operation of this scheme was 382,621 (1935-36, 117,115; 1936-37, 141,177 and 1937-38, 124,329).

223. Another important development in the control of contagious diseases, particularly rinderpest, was the application of the Cattle Diseases Act, 1934, to the Saugor and Hoshangabad districts. Nine quarantine stations were established on the main cattle routes on the borders of the province in these districts and the system of vaccination and certification of nomadic herds, prior to their entry into the province, was initiated with effect from the 1st December 1938. In all 159,336 (1938-39, 41,499 and 1939-40, 117,837) animals passed through these stations of which 158,461 (1938-39, 41.315 and 1939-40. 117.146) were vaccinated and a sum of Rs. 39,782-4-0 (1938-39 Rs. 10,501 and 1939-40 Rs. 29,281-4-0) was realised as vaccination fee. The progress of these stations during the short period of their operation has been satisfactory, and their effect is reflected by the reduced incidence of rinderpest outbreaks in the adjoining areas and in the province as a whole. It is hoped that if the present satisfactory progress is maintained, it will be possible to apply the provisions of the Act to other important districts of the province.

224. During the period under report 29,922 (1937-38, 10,212; 1938-39, 10,422 and 1939-40, 9,288) outbreaks of various contagious cattle diseases were confirmed and duly attended. The reporting of outbreaks by village officials was fairly satisfactory and barring periods when there was considerable rush of reports the attendance was invariably prompt. Of this large number of reported outbreaks, foot-and-mouth accounted for 17,537 (1937-38, 5,462; 1938-39, 6,335 and 1939-40, 5,740), *i.e.*, about two-thirds of the total. No satisfactory preventive method has yet been evolved against this infection which, though comparatively not so fatal, results in considerable deterioration in the condition of working animals and the yield of milch stock. The reported mortality from various contagious cattle diseases was 59,201 (1937-38, 20,297; 1938-39, 20,227 and 1939-40, 18,677). 2,289,016 (1937-38, 1,013,832; 1938-39, 594,049 and 1939-40, 681,135) inoculations and vaccinations were performed by the staff. The number of animals treated at the veterinary dispensaries in the province was 741,366 (1937-38, 247,011; 1938-39, 242,521 and 1939-40, 251,834) while 1,328,824 (1937-38, 614,107; 1938-39, 366,950 and 1939-40, 347,767) were attended on tour. 372,038 (1937-38, 166,129; 1938-39, 100,774 and 1939-40, 105,135) scrub bulls were castrated. Two full-fledged dispensaries were opened bringing the total to 106. Further, with a view to providing veterinary aid in remote areas 24 (1938-39, 21, and in 1939-40, 3) outlying dispensaries have been established under the charge of trained compounders. Of these, 12 are entirely financed by Government, three partly by Government and partly district council, and the rest entirely by the district councils.

225. A notable advance in respect of cattle-breeding was the establishment of a cattle-breeding farm at Dewal, in Saugor district in 1938, with a nucleus herd of 200 Malvi cows and heifers and 100 Murrah buffaloes. Similarly with the object of encouraging sheep-breeding in the province, a farm was established as an experimental measure, at Dhar in Betul district, and rams of Bikaner and Hissar-dale breeds were obtained and kept with a flock of 300 selected local ewes.

226. Out of the Government of India grant made available in 1936, 117 (1937-38, 61; 1938-39, 50 and 1939-40, 6) bulls were purchased during the period under report and distributed in various controlled breeding units established in the province.

14.—Co-operative Societies

[NOTE.—Figures within brackets indicate the figures of the year 1936-37.]

227. The economic condition of the agriculturists upon which depends the progress of the Co-operative movement showed no improvement during the year 1937-38. The year 1938-39 was not also a favourable one for the agriculturists. The central banks in Berar experienced increasing difficulty in obtaining financial accommodation to meet their obligations to the depositors. The Provincial Bank which had already advanced loans to them to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs was naturally somewhat reluctant to advance more. The main problem facing the Berar Banks was how to liquefy their frozen assets locked up in lands. The movement in Berar was steadily declining and Government appointed

in October 1938 a committee to examine the position of the movement and suggested measures for its revival. The committee submitted its report to Government in the month of February 1939. Government's orders on the report of the Committee were passed and published in a press communiqué, dated the 9th September 1939. No action could, however, be taken to implement the proposals for dealing with the problem of co-operative movement in Berar outlined in the above communiqué as they did not commend themselves to the interests primarily concerned and as the problem itself to some extent changed its shape due to the outbreak of war. Government, therefore, re-examined the position and after taking further authoritative advice published a modified scheme in a communiqué on the 26th March 1940. The Cooperative Societies Act was also amended with a view to facilitate a compromise or arrangement for the repayment of liabilities of registered societies. Nine Central Banks in Berar and four in Central Provinces had, in the meanwhile suspended, repayment of deposits. Meetings of creditors were accordingly held in the case of nine central banks in Berar in June 1940 and the arrangements accepted by the requisite majority of creditors were confirmed in the case of four banks. In four banks, the arrangements could not be confirmed as, before giving their final assent, the creditors desired to examine the results of the enquiries into the assets, liabilities and repaying capacity of members. In the case of the remaining ninth bank, *viz.*, Amraoti, the arrangement adopted by the creditors could not be confirmed as the question of the security rights of the Provincial Bank under the arrangement cropped up in the meanwhile. Meetings of creditors were held in the case of four central banks in the Central Provinces at the close of the year 1939-40 and the arrangements were accepted by the creditors.

228. The movement was healthy and flourishing in the three districts of Chhattisgarh—Raipur, Bilaspur and Drug—where fresh organization proceeded apace and loans collections were on a scale associated with an active agricultural credit bank.

229. The total overdues in working societies increased by Rs. 4.27 lakhs to Rs. 63.68 lakhs in 1937-38, by Rs. 14.75 lakhs to Rs. 48.93 lakhs in 1938-39 and by Rs. 9.32 lakhs to Rs. 39.61 lakhs in 1939-40 due to the liquidation of 95, 79 and 121 societies respectively during the period. The policy of securing outstanding loans and fresh loans by taking first mortgages of members' immovable property was continued. In Berar, Central Banks had to continue acquiring of lands of members in liquidation proceedings and the total area in possession of the Berar Banks aggregated 50,263 acres in 1937-38, 59,518 acres in 1938-39 and 65,090 acres in 1939-40. The amounts held in deposit of various kinds by all Central Banks, whose number remained the same, *viz.*, 35, went down to Rs. 1,18,95,206 in 1937-38, to Rs. 1,09,72,592 in 1938-39 and to Rs. 1,03,75,899 in 1939-40. 105, 79 and 127 unco-operative societies were wounded up, 547, 435 and 247 were registered and 68, 59 and 69 were reorganized in 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40, respectively. Fresh organization was the best in the Chhattisgarh division where as many as 219, 169 and 99 societies were registered in 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40, respectively. Total loans against members of societies decreased to Rs. 172.3, Rs. 171.1 and Rs. 162.3 lakhs in 1937-38, 1938-39

and 1939-40 respectively. Repayments of loans by members of working societies amounted to Rs. 10.5, Rs. 10.1 and Rs. 13.8 lakhs and recoveries by banks to Rs. 12.4, Rs. 11.8 and Rs. 14.9 lakhs in 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40 respectively. The percentage of overdues against the working societies worked out at 73, 89.9 and 64.78 respectively, during the period.

230. Education of members in the basic principles of Co-operation continued to constitute one of the principal activities of the department as before. Rallies were organised by banks and training classes by the educational staff of the department. During the period under report the number of rallies held and the number of members and outsiders who attended them are shown below :—

Year	Number of rallies held	Number of persons who attended the rallies	
		Members	Outsiders
1937-38	241	13,085	18,291
1938-39	216	14,041	21,165
1939-40	161	9,855	15,214

Central Boards set up by the five Institutes were in charge of supervision and education of primary societies. Government continued to give financial assistance to the Institutes which are asking for increased grants to balance their budgets. Government cannot go on increasing the grants indefinitely and the real remedy lies in curtailing the expenditure and organising new societies. In order to avoid the deficits it was impressed on all Institutes that they should effect all possible retrenchment. The Nerbudda and Northern Institutes have accepted the departmental advice, reorganised their staff and reduced the scales of pay which should enable them to balance their budget. The question whether the present system of education and supervision of primary societies needs any change is under consideration. The Berar Co-operative Institute has curtailed its activities and disbanded most of its staff for want of funds since the close of the year 1939-40.

231. During the triennium ending 1940, nine more land mortgage banks were established as shown below :—

1937-38—(1) Chhindwara, (2) Khandwa, (3) Khamgaon, (4) Saugor, (5) Drug, (6) Mandla, (7) Akola.

1938-39—(1) Hoshangabad, (2) Betul.

1939-40—*Nil.*

Thus the total number of land mortgage banks in the province increased from 12 to 21. The area of operations of the Saugor Land Mortgage Bank was extended to the Damoh subdivision.

The only districts which now remain without land mortgage banks are Chanda and Balaghat. The proposal to establish banks for these districts has been dropped for the present, as it was considered desirable to consolidate the position of the banks already established.

232. The Provincial Bank continued to function as the apex bank for the land mortgage bank movement and financed all land mortgage banks. During the period under report it floated four series of debentures as shown below :—

Year	Number	Face value	Rate of interest
		Lakhs	Per cent
(1) 1937-38 ..	II series	3	3½
(2) 1938-39 ..	III series	4	4¼
(3) 1939-40	IV series	5	4
	V series	1	4

The second series was subscribed in full by the public promptly. The response to the third series was disappointing as the period of the notice given for the purchase of the debentures coincided with the period of war rumours. The increase in the rate of interest for the fourth and the fifth series was due to lightness of the money market on the outbreak of the war. These series were, however, subscribed fully by the public.

233. On the advice of the Reserve Bank of India, the Provincial Bank restricted the grant of credit and instructed all land mortgage banks not to entertain loan applications for more than Rs. 5,000 from November 1939. The information about the working of land mortgage banks during the triennium is given below :—

Year	Borrowings of all Land Mortgage banks from the Provincial Bank	Repayments	Provincial Bank loan outstandings	Overdues
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	3,36,948	33,433	6,63,068	1,643
1938-39	4,61,079	36,232	11,07,105	12,642
1939-40	2,69,315	1,54,673	12,57,796	17,455

234. Overdues were due generally to deliberate defaults on the part of borrowers and only in a few cases to unsatisfactory outturn of crops. Action is being taken by all land mortgage banks to recover these overdues through the coercive machinery set up under the Central Provinces Land Mortgage Banks Act.

235. The following grants were given by the Provincial Government from time to time to meet the deficits sustained by land mortgage banks during their initial stages:—

Year			Number of land mortgage banks to which grant was given		Amount
					Rs.
1937-38	..	..	9	..	5,487
1938-39	..	..	3	..	560
1939-40	..	..	9	..	3,420

236. It was finally decided that the Provincial Bank should maintain a sinking fund instead of a debt redemption fund as contemplated in the Trust Deed executed by it. Accordingly it has started sinking funds for the first three series of debentures and has credited Rs. 75,527 to an account opened in the Provincial Bank in the name of the Registrar as the Trustee. These amounts have been invested in Government securities.

237. The most remarkable feature of the working of land mortgage banks during the last two years of the triennium was a sharp fall in the number of loan applications. This was mainly due to the establishment of Debt Relief Courts under the Relief of Indebtedness Act.

238. Cash recoveries of loans from societies during the triennium amounted to Rs. 35,17,797 as detailed below:—

1937-38—Rs. 8,54,185.
1938-39—Rs. 11,75,746.
1939-40—Rs. 14,87,866.

Central Banks in Berar had in their possession 65,090 [42,517] acres of land assessed at Rs. 99,414 and purchased for Rs. 35,26,882. The lands came in their possession as follows:—

Year			Land	Land Revenue	Cost price
			Acres	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	..	..	50,263	78,174	28,94,059
1938-39	..	..	59,518	92,609	33,97,947
1939-40	..	..	65,090	99,414	35,26,882

The Banks find great difficulty in disposing of the land and an Officer of the Provincial Civil Service has been appointed by Government since the close of the year to help the Banks in the management and disposal of their lands. During the year,

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however, 3,673 acres could be sold. Cash advances of loans to societies during the triennium amounted to Rs. 27,10,670 as detailed below :—

1937-38—Rs. 9,70,320.
1938-39—Rs. 9,25,844.
1939-40—Rs. 8,14,506.

The total loans outstanding amounted to Rs. 1,30,72,982 in 1937-38, to Rs. 1,25,67,417 in 1938-39 and to Rs. 1,19,45,815 in 1939-40. Renewals during the triennium were granted to the extent of Rs. 2,78,037 in 1937-38, Rs. 78,783 in 1938-39 and Rs. 19,634 in 1939-40. Taking overdue and renewal together the arrears against members of societies amounted to Rs. 1,41,05,759 [Rs. 1,54,43,505] and their percentage to the total outstandings worked at 87 [92] as detailed below :—

Year	Amount of arrears including overdue and renewal	Percentage to the total outstanding
	Rs.	Per cent
1937-38	1,57,51,225	91
1938-39	1,61,49,977	87
1939-40	1,41,05,759	87

239. The number of societies of all kinds during the triennium increased to 4,884 [3,966]. The working capital, however, decreased to Rs. 5,23,52,974 [Rs. 5,38,15,795] while the membership rose to 136,271 [114,411]. The working capital of Central Banks fell to Rs. 2,32,15,046 [Rs. 2,45,46,639]. Total net profit during the triennium amounted to Rs. 3,21,097. The unrealised and overdue interest amounted to Rs. 19,42,951 [Rs. 25,74,886]. Twenty-three Central Banks could not pay any dividend to shareholders as they had no cash profits. The fluid resources available with Central Banks amounted to Rs. 17,81,396 [Rs. 23,80,811] as against Rs. 46,00,802, the amount required under the standing instructions. The year-to-year details of the above are given below :—

—	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Number of societies of all kinds ..	4,408	4,764	4,884
(2) Working capital of societies	5,52,26,487	5,43,43,270	5,23,52,974
(3) Membership of societies	1,22,503	1,28,826	1,36,271
(4) Working capital of Central Banks ..	2,45,81,314	2,43,41,028	2,32,15,046
(5) Net profit	1,26,399	1,50,615	44,083
(6) Unrealized and overdue interest ..	26,04,343	20,69,968	19,42,951
(7) Fluid resource available	20,36,999	15,91,453	17,81,396
(8) Required fluid resource	26,25,849	15,41,989	46,00,802

240. The financial position of the Provincial Bank continues to be very satisfactory. It had surplus funds throughout the period under report. Overdues from the Central Banks and societies during the triennium amounted as shown below :—

1937-38—Rs. 7,64,217.

1938-39—Rs. 9,16,372.

1939-40—Rs. 13,42,111.

Deposits of all kinds, excluding the Ten-Year Silver Jubilee Bonds amounting to Rs. 1,67,559 in 1937-38, Rs. 2,51,589 in 1938-39 and Rs. 2,59,639 in 1939-40, continued to decrease as shown below :—

1937-38—Rs. 1,38,07,088.

1938-39—Rs. 1,33,53,836.

1939-40—Rs. 1,16,42,545.

Cash advances and recoveries of loans, the working capital and the net profit for the three years under report were as follows :—

Year	Cash advances	Recoveries of loans	Working capital	Net profit
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	2,47,530	4,87,717	1,64,98,915	46,859
1938-39	6,37,800	2,27,815	1,67,53,817	68,276
1939-40	6,60,982	9,93,272	1,61,51,898	78,076

In view of the crisis in Berar the bad debt fund amounting to Rs. 6,00,000 on 30th June 1940 built out of its profits is likely to be wiped out.

241. The number of non-credit agricultural societies rose to 85 [72], *i.e.*, 59 agricultural associations, 1 landholders' association, 17 seed unions and 8 adat shops. Co-operative marketing has not developed much in the province, though this is essential for improving the financial position of agriculturists by eliminating the middlemen's profit. A beginning has, however, been made by starting Growers' Association in Raipur, Bilaspur and Drug. These associations are financed by the Central Banks and are provided with godowns at the expense of Government. Agriculture Department has placed the services of an agricultural assistant at the disposal of each of these associations which hold out a promise of securing better prices for their members. The Orange Growers' Association at Nagpur is doing good work. The adat shops which are also a form of co-operative marketing have not been successful. The chief reasons for their failure are want of loyalty on the part of the members and want of keenness and necessary equipment on the part of the office-bearers. Linking of credit with marketing is now generally considered as essential for the success of the co-operative movement and the department will pay more attention to this question, when the rehabilitation work which is engaging all its energies at present is concluded.

Sixty-nine non-agricultural credit societies with unlimited liability were registered while one was cancelled during the triennium raising their number to 103 [35]. Seventeen clerks' societies were also registered during this period while one was cancelled with the result that the number of non-agricultural societies with limited liabilities increased to 60 [44]. The number of non-agricultural societies for purposes other than credit rose to 137 [53]. Of these 30 were stores, 5 dairies, 10 industrial associations, 16 housing societies, 25 thrift societies, 9 adult education societies, 21 better-living societies, 2 village development societies, 3 cattle-breeding societies, 7 general purposes societies and 9 multi-purpose societies.

242. During the triennium, 1,027 primary societies were registered while the registration of 299 was cancelled. The number of primary societies thus rose from 3,708 to 4,436 and their membership from 48,369 to 56,372. The working capital of societies decreased to Rs. 83,78,315 [Rs. 1,08,26,940] and the loans due from members to Rs. 61,15,505 [Rs. 83,27,893]. Total loans advanced to members of societies during the period amounted to Rs. 48,87,909 and cash advances to Rs. 26,10,688. The year-to-year details of the above are given below :—

	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Number of societies registered	479	364	184
(2) Number of societies cancelled	103	75	121
(3) Total number of primary societies ..	4,084	4,373	4,436
(4) Number of members of societies ..	53,299	57,563	56,372
(5) Working capital	1,05,39,352	92,30,901	83,78,315
(6) Loans due from members	81,26,882	69,15,886	61,15,505
(7) Total advances	19,78,121	16,39,084	12,70,704
(8) Cash advances	9,32,903	8,68,132	8,09,653

Fourteen crop loan societies with limited liability in Berar continued to work with 150 members; loans outstanding against these amounted to Rs. 4,510. Advances and recoveries from these societies during the period amounted to Rs. 16,089 and Rs. 12,062 respectively, as detailed below :—

Year	Number of members	Loans outstanding	Advances	Recoveries
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1937-38	107	4,774	7,301	2,526
1938-39	137	5,863	5,874	5,269
1939-40	150	4,510	2,914	4,267

The Berar Banks did not have enough funds to finance the primary societies.

15.—Education

[Figures in brackets indicate those for the year 1938-39.]

Numbers.

243. The total number of educational institutions in the province increased by 512 from 6,347 to 6,859 [6,616] during the triennium. Of these the recognized institutions increased from 5,775 to 6,194 [5,951] and the unrecognized from 572 to 665 [665]. The total number of pupils under instruction increased by 34,055 from 513,645 to 547,700 [530,128], the number of recognized institutions rising from 490,992 to 521,497 [505,124] and that in unrecognized institutions from 22,653 to 26,203 [25,004].

Expenditure.

244. The total expenditure on education increased by Rs. 5,38,801 from Rs. 1,14,15,284 to Rs. 1,19,54,085 [Rs. 1,15,62,249] the contribution of Government having increased from Rs. 50,64,751 to Rs. 53,15,793 [Rs. 51,46,262]. The average cost of educating a pupil fell from Rs. 23-4-0 to Rs. 22-14-9 [Rs. 22-15-1] which is due to the curtailment of expenditure.

University.

245. Some amendments to the Statute of the University were made during the triennium. One of these related to changes in the names of B. Ag. and M. Ag. examinations into B. Sc. and M. Ss. (Agriculture), respectively. The University has decided to build up a small Publications Fund for the purpose of financing the publication of such books and papers as the University may select. It has been decided to institute courses in Commerce and Ordinances prescribing the conditions of admission to the Intermediate examination in Commerce and the examination of the Bachelor of Courses have been framed.

246. The new buildings of the University College of Law and the hostel for post-graduate students have been completed. The building of the Laxmi Narayan Institute of Technology is under construction. Efforts are being made for the extension of the University Training Corps.

Collegiate education.

247. The number of colleges has increased from 10 to 12 [12] and the number of students enrolled in these colleges has increased from 2,766 to 3,091 [3,076] during the triennium. The total expenditure on Government Colleges decreased from Rs. 5,87,248 to Rs. 5,68,883 [Rs. 5,47,485], the contribution from Government Funds having decreased from Rs. 4,04,494 to Rs. 3,61,228 [Rs. 3,56,732].

High School Education Board.

248. The total number of candidates for the High School Certificate Examination increased from 4,456 in 1937 to 4,831 in 1940 [4,453]. The percentage of passes who appeared from

recognized institution was 60.48 in 1937 and 67.99 in 1940 [64.5]. The total receipts increased from Rs. 73,061 to Rs. 95,864 [Rs. 76,919] during the triennium. The concession of exemption from examination fees enjoyed by the Harijans was extended to other backward classes also.

Secondary education.

(*a*) Indian-English Schools

249. The number of High Schools increased from 83 to 92 [87] and that of Indian-English Middle Schools from 209 to 221 [210]. The enrolment in High Schools increased from 9,633 to 11,869 [12,774] and that in Indian-English Middle Schools from 32,439 to 34,122 [31,160]. The total expenditure on Secondary Schools increased from Rs. 22,99,049 to Rs. 24,69,704 [Rs. 23,85,591]. The percentage of trained teachers increased from 54.1 to 54.2 [53.2].

(*b*) Middle Schools

250. The number of Middle Schools decreased from 382 to 372 [379], and the number of pupils reading in them from 72,423 to 69,171 [72,221] during the triennium. The fall in numbers is partly due to the general economic depression and partly to the fact that recruitment to Normal Schools is now limited. Most of these Middle Schools are managed by district councils and only a few of them are properly housed and equipped. The number of these schools teaching English as an optional subject decreased from 126 to 122 [131] and the pupils learning English in them decreased from 3,080 to 2,982 [3,115]. Instruction in Agriculture was given in 25 schools in 1937-38 and in 23 schools in 1939-40 [25] and special grants were paid to the district councils managing them for extra allowances to the teachers of Agriculture.

Primary education.

251. The total number of recognized primary schools increased from 4,390 to 4,749 [4,574] and the number of pupils in them increased from 317,210 to 340,732 [327,869] during the triennium. The number of urban areas under the operation of the Central Provinces Primary Education Act increased from 30 to 32 [32] and that of rural areas remained unchanged at 8 [8]. The slow progress of Compulsory Education is largely due to the paucity of funds. The number of teachers (male) working in Primary Schools under local bodies increased from 10,685 to 11,256 [11,155]. The percentage of trained teachers increased from 65.4 to 67.1 [65.8]. Transfers of Primary School teachers working under district councils continue to be in general excessive and otherwise also the conditions of their service are unattractive.

252. The total expenditure on Primary Education increased from Rs. 39,24,285 to Rs. 42,35,367 [Rs. 41,40,004]. The chief activity in the field of Primary Education during the triennium was the inauguration of the Vidya Mandir Scheme and the Basic Education.

Education of girls.

253. The total number of institutions for girls increased from 622 to 644 [624] and their enrolment from 87,731 to 105,159 [89,669]. The number of girls reading in colleges has increased from 223 to 313 [259] during the triennium.

Education of backward classes.

254. The number of Harijan male scholars increased from 52,567 to 53,336 [54,026] and that of Harijan girls decreased from 4,645 to 4,619 [3,202]. The Harijan pupils are being freely admitted to ordinary schools. The number of male students belonging to Aboriginal and Wandering Tribes increased from 23,848 to 35,067 [27,081] and that of girls from 1,834 to 2,622 [1,667]. The increase in numbers is mainly due to the opening of new Primary Schools in backward areas under the scheme for the amelioration of the conditions of Harijans and Aboriginals sanctioned by Government in 1938-39. The education of aboriginal tribes is receiving special attention of Government and a detailed scheme for providing educational facilities for these tribes is being prepared by Mr. W. V. Grigson, I.C.S.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

255. The number of institutions for Anglo-Indians and Europeans increased from 35 to 36 [36] and their enrolment from 2,970 to 3,023 [2,924] during the triennium. Two stipends of Rs. 50 each were awarded every year for the training of teachers for the European Schools.

Muslim education.

256. The number of Muslim male scholars decreased from 41,575 to 41,009 [41,097] and that of Muslim girls increased from 12,162 to 13,195 [10,404]. The percentage of Muslim scholars to the total number of pupils under instruction was 9.8. This compares very favourably with the percentage of Muslim population in the province.

Training of teachers.

257. The enrolment in the Spence Training College, Jubbulpore, increased from 130 to 174 [142]. Efforts are being made to increase the supply of trained teachers from the College to meet the growing demands of Secondary Schools in the province. The number of Normal Schools remained unchanged at 8 [8]. The Vidya Mandir Training Institute, Wardha, was started as a centre for training the staff of the Normal Schools in the methods of basic education.

Salient features.

(1) The Vidya Mandir Scheme was inaugurated.

(2) The High School Entrance and Scholarship Examination was abolished.

(3) The Basic Education Syllabus was accepted by the Provincial Government.

(4) A Central Board of Physical Welfare was constituted and a Chief Organizer of Physical Welfare was appointed.

(5) The Administrative Branch of the Education Department was re-organized on the 1st October 1938. This involved abolition of the posts of the four Circle Inspectors of Schools and creation of the posts of District Inspectors.

(6) The Vidya Mandir Training Institute, Wardha, was started, with effect from the 1st July 1939, for the training of Normal School staff in Basic Education.

(7) The Middle School Scholarship Examination was abolished.

(8) The scholarships were converted into stipends and sanction was given to award them on the criterion of Poverty-*cum*-merit.

16.—Excise and Prohibition

[NOTE.—Throughout the report, the figures in rectangular brackets, wherever placed in juxtaposition to those given for the triennium under report, refer to the previous triennium (1934—37).]

258. The gross revenue for the triennium 1937—40 rose by 3 per cent to Rs. 188.55 [Rs. 182.72] lakhs. The fall in revenue owing to the prohibition of country spirit including toddy was Rs. 14.34 lakhs and owing to the prohibition of charas Rs. 1.39 lakhs. The rise of Rs. 5.83 lakhs was *shared by all the principal* heads except toddy and opium which registered a fall of Rs. 2.92 lakhs or 34 per cent and of Rs. 11.75 lakhs or 22 per cent, respectively. Country spirit was responsible for an increase of Rs. 15.92 lakhs or 18 per cent, hemp drugs of Rs. 3.98 lakhs or 15 per cent, and foreign liquor of Rs. 0.19 lakh or 5 per cent. The gross revenue in each of the years was as detailed below :—

Head of revenue	Year		
	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Country spirit	38,45,468	36,46,664	31,83,662
Foreign liquor	1,11,320	1,39,792	1,43,935
Toddy	2,24,146	1,80,977	1,61,260
Opium	15,02,602	13,76,841	12,37,207
Hemp drugs	10,20,504	9,75,850	9,82,967
Miscellaneous	31,635	62,048	28,553
Total	67,35,675	63,82,172	57,37,584

The continued fall in revenue in each of the three years is noticeable under country spirit, toddy and opium and is owing to the gradual extension of prohibition of country spirit and toddy and to the decreased sale of opium.

259. The issue price of country spirit was further reduced by 29 per cent in 1937 for the province as a whole and the area under outstills was extended by 6,375 square miles. The issue price rates were enhanced by 31 per cent in 1938 and the area under outstills was reduced by 15,759 square miles. In 1939 the issue price was raised from Rs. 1-14-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per proof

gallon in portions of four districts and was reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 7-8-0 for a few shops in the Buldana district and the area under outstills was further reduced by 5,369 square miles to 4,247 square miles. From the 1st January 1940, the issue price was further enhanced from Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 per proof gallon in nine towns from Rs. 10 to Rs. 13-2-0 in two towns and from Rs. 1-14-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 in portions of five districts.

In spite of the prohibition in certain areas the consumption of country spirit in the contract supply areas rose by 46 per cent to 1,489,625 [1,021,141] proof gallons owing mainly to the inclusion of consumption in the outstill areas converted into the supply system during the triennium. The consumption was 470,474 in 1937-38, 514,592 in 1938-39 and 504,559 proof gallons in 1939-40.

260. The consumption of opium fell further by 18 per cent to 26,445 [32,451] seers, reducing the incidence per 10,000 of the population to 6 [6.5] seers. The consumption was as under—

Year and consumption.

1937-38—9,691 seers.
1938-39—9,029 seers.
1939-40—7,725 seers.

261. The reasons for the fall were the enhancement in the issue price by Rs. 20 to Rs. 110 per seer with effect from the 1st January 1940, high selling rates, reduction in the limit of retail sale and individual possession to ¼ tola of the drug, rigid enforcement of the Opium Smoking Act, intensive campaign against opium smoking in the Narsinghpur sub-division and continued decline in the habit of administering the drug to infants.

262. The consumption of ganja, exclusive of 3,370 [3,330] seers issued to States, decreased by 2 per cent to 37,360 [38,013] seers. In each of the years the consumption was—

Year and consumption.

1937-38—13,402 seers, States 1,475 seers.
1938-39—11,914 seers, States 1,015 seers.
1939-40—12,044 seers, States 880 seers.

Higher selling rates, consequent on the enhancement in the issue price from Rs. 40 to Rs. 55 per seer and a slight diversion of custom to bhang, were responsible for the decrease. Prior to the prohibition of charas from 1st January 1939, the consumption of the drug was 1,180 seers in 1937 and 1,237 seers in 1938. Sales of bhang rose to 10,175 [6,297] seers. The increase was steady each year as is manifest from the figures given below :—

Year and consumption.

1937—2,659 seers.
1938—3,383 seers.
1939—4,133 seers.

The increase was owing to the diversion of custom from ganja due to the growing practice of smoking bhang which was formerly used as a drink only.

263. Prosecutions under the Excise Prohibition, Opium, Opium Smoking and Dangerous Drugs Acts declined by 24 per cent to 14,369 [18,913], owing to the fall in illicit distillation

cases detected to 5,849 [11,070], and they were 4,071 in 1937, 4,682 in 1938 and 5,616 in 1939. The number of illicit distillation cases detected in 1937 was 1,877. Owing to the reconversion of certain outstill areas to the supply system and the enhancement in the issue price rates of country spirit, the number of illicit distillation cases rose to 1,954 in 1938 followed by 2,015 in 1939.

264. Owing to the introduction of prohibition, enhancement in issue price rates and reconversion of outstill area to the supply system, offences relating to liquor smuggling rose by 68 per cent to 1,186 [703]. In 1937, the number of such cases was 285. The inevitable result of the introduction of prohibition in 1938 was an increase in the number of these cases to 414. Consequent on the further extension of prohibition, enhancement in issue price rates and reconversion of outstill areas, cases under this head further rose to 487 in 1939.

265. The number of cases relating to hemp drugs rose by 3 per cent to 2,026 [1,963], of which 559 cases were in 1937, 670 in 1938 and 797 in 1939. The prohibition of charas from the 1st January 1939 and the enhancement in issue prices of ganja and bhang accounted for the increase.

Offences relating to opium increased by 7 per cent to 3,475 [3,240] including 1,578 [1,186] under the Opium Smoking Act. The number of cases detected in each of the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 was 1,053, 969 and 1,453, respectively. The increase was owing to the intensive campaign launched against opium-smoking in the Narsinghpur sub-division where a special preventive staff has been posted for the purpose with effect from March 1939.

266. In the latter half of 1937, the Provincial Government decided to adopt the policy of total prohibition of liquor including toddy. To implement this policy, the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act, 1938, was passed and brought into force from the 1st April 1938. The areas made dry were—

From 1st January 1938—

(*a*) whole of the Saugor district,
(*b*) the Narsinghpur sub-division,
(*c*) the Akot taluq of the Akola district, and
(*d*) the industrial towns of Hinganghat, Badnera and Katni covering an area of 9,333 square miles with a population of 1,400,000 souls.

From 1st January 1939

Rest of the Akola and Wardha districts covering an area of 5,944 square miles and a population of 1,599,891 souls.

From 1st January 1940—

(1) the whole of the Raipur district except—
(*a*) Zamindaris other than—
(i) Bilaigarh-Katgi,
(ii) Bhatgaon,
(iii) Fingeshwar, and
(*b*) the Nagri and Sihawa tracts in the Dhamtari tahsil,

(2) the Warora and Brahmapuri tahsils of the Chanda district, and

(3) the town of Buldana in the Buldana district.

267. The total area under prohibition covers 22,279 square miles with a population of 3,926,345 souls approximately one-fourth of the area and population of the province. The prevention, detection and prosecution of offences under the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act, 1938, have been entrusted to the police. With the exception of a few shops a ten-mile shopless zone was formed around the prohibition areas. Seven paid propagandists were appointed in the Akola, Wardha and Saugor districts and the Narsinghpur sub-division. Propaganda was carried on by means of posters, leaflets, films, songs, magic lantern slides and lanterns. Anti-drink Committees were formed for each municipal area and each revenue inspector's circle in the dry areas. A few did good work, but the majority were not sufficiently interested and many indifferent ones had to be reorganised. The constructive side of the anti-drink propaganda included the formation of better-living, thrift and credit societies, distribution of saving boxes and provision of counter-attractions like tea stalls, recreation grounds and wireless receiving sets. Up to the 31st March 1940, 585 cases were detected under the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act including 202 of illicit distillation. The figures for 1938, 1939 and first three months of 1940 are given below :—

Year	Total cases	Illicit distillation cases
1938	130	33
1939	351	137
1940 .. .. .. (up to the 31st March 1940).	104	32

17.—Miscellaneous

[Abstract from the Triennial Report of the Registration Department for the Calendar years 1938, 1939 and 1940 for inclusion in the General Administration Report.]

(1) Registration

268. The total number of documents of all classes in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year 1938 was 122,619 [131,678], 1939, 108,226 [122,619] and 1940, 112,265 [108,226]. The total for the triennium 1938—40 was 343,110 [370,095], a decrease of 26,985 documents or 7.2 per cent, the Central Provinces contributing 180,904 [200,622] and Berar 162,206 [169,473]. In the Central Provinces and Berar 308,842 instruments (101,956 in 1938, 98,651 in 1939 and 108,235 in 1940) related to immovable property, 31,509 (19,650 in 1938, 8,710 in 1939 and 3,149 in 1940) to movable property and 2,759 (1,013 in 1938, 865 in 1939 and 881 in 1940) were wills and authorities to adopt. The main reason

for the decline in the number of registrations during the triennium was the decrease in the activity of the debt conciliation boards.

269. The total value of all classes of documents during the years 1938, 1939 and 1940 was Rs. 5,88,08,034, Rs. 4,45,19,171 and Rs. 4,11,08,728 respectively. The average value during the triennium was Rs. 4,81,45,311 [Rs. 6,23,85,581], a decrease by 22.82 per cent. Average registrations affecting immovable property were valued at Rs. 4,34,38,981 (Rs. 5,02,81,898 in 1938, Rs. 3,95,73,319 in 1939 and Rs. 4,04,61,726 in 1940) [Rs. 5,40,19,572] a decrease by 19.59 and those affecting movable property at Rs. 47,06,330 (Rs. 6,47,002 in 1938, Rs. 49,45,852 in 1939 and Rs. 85,26,136 in 1940) [Rs. 83,66,009], a decrease by 43.75 per cent.

270. The gross income of the department during the years 1938, 1939 and 1940 was Rs. 5,33,844, Rs. 5,04,525 and Rs. 5,25,513, respectively. The gross income of the department during the triennium was Rs. 15,63,882 [Rs. 14,95,044], an increase of Rs. 68,838 or 4.6 per cent. The total expenditure exclusive of that on supervision was Rs. 4,84,390 (Rs. 1,67,041 in 1938, Rs. 1,59,800 in 1939 and Rs. 1,57,549 in 1940) [Rs. 5,11,563], a decrease of Rs. 27,173 or 5.31.

(2) Stamps

271. The gross revenue for the triennium 1937—40 decreased to Rs. 117.90 [Rs. 157.99] lakhs or by 25 per cent. The revenue for the financial year 1937-38 was Rs. 42.15 lakhs, for 1938-39, Rs. 37.43 lakhs and for 1939-40, Rs. 38.32 lakhs against that for 1934-35, Rs. 54.47 lakhs, for 1935-36, Rs. 52.92 lakhs and for 1936-37, Rs. 50.60 lakhs. The fall in the gross revenue for the triennium under report was shared by the receipts under both the Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act, which were as under—

Financial year		Receipts under the Stamp Act	Receipts under the Court Fees Act
		Rs.	Rs.
1934-35	..	12,21,828	42,24,935
1935-36	..	11,96,267	40,95,414
1936-37	..	10,34,402	40,26,143
Total	..	34,52,497	1,23,46,492
1937-38	..	9,43,382	32,71,340
1938-39	..	8,44,118	28,99,004
1939-40	..	9,61,856	28,70,673
Total	..	27,49,356	90,41,017

272. The charges in connection with the two Acts decreased to Rs. 350 [Rs. 4.49] lakhs or by 22 per cent, those for 1937-38, being Rs. 1.23 lakhs, for 1938-39, Rs. 1.09 lakhs and for 1939-40, Rs. 1.18 lakhs against those for 1934-35, Rs. 1.51 lakhs, for 1935-36, Rs. 1.81 lakhs and for 1936-37, Rs. 1.17 lakhs.

273. The net revenue thus amounted to Rs. 114.40 [Rs. 153.50] lakhs, a fall of 25 per cent. The continued economic depression and the decrease in litigation on account of the establishment of debt conciliation boards in the province account for the fall in revenue. The fall under the Stamp Act would have been still greater had it not been for the Central Provinces and Berar Indian Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1939, which enhanced the rates of stamp duty with effect from 1st July 1939.

274. The reduction in expenditure is mainly owing to the smaller indents for stamps and the payment of less commission to stamp vendors as a result of a drop in revenue.

(3) Literature and the Press

[Paragraph on Literature and the Press for the triennium 1937—40.]

Literature.

275. The total number of publications registered in the Province during the triennium 1937—40 was 696. Of these 342 were in Hindi, 210 in Marathi, 71 in English, 36 in Urdu, 4 in Sanskrit, 3 in Gujerati, 2 in Arabic, 2 in Korku and the rest were either bi-lingual or tri-lingual. Educational publications numbered 227 and reprints 148. There was hardly any publication of outstanding merit. Authors contented themselves with writing text-books or biographies, books on social uplift and other such miscellaneous subjects. Eighty-two of the books published were text-books. There were 107 publications on religion, 68 on geography, 58 on poetry and 33 on politics.

Press.

276. The number of newspapers and periodicals in circulation in the province at the end of the year 1936-37 was 78. During the triennium 88 were either newly started or revived, and 74 ceased publication, leaving thus a total of 92 at the end of the year 1939-40. Of these, 37 were in Hindi, 21 in Marathi, 13 in English, 5 in Urdu, 2 in Gujerati and the rest were either bi-lingual or tri-lingual. Before the triennium under report, the only daily in the province was the *Daily News*, which was incorporated in the daily *Nagpur Times* in August 1939. Two Hindi dailies—the *Nava Bharat* and the *Lokmat*—were started in 1939. The *Hitavada* (Nagpur) conducted by the Servants of India Society continued to be published in English three times a week. Of the two English weeklies—the *Independent* and the *Indian Labour Journal*—the latter was incorporated in the *New India*, also a weekly, in November 1939. The *Maharashtra*, a Marathi bi-weekly, maintained its position as the paper with the largest circulation. At the end of 1939-40, Nagpur ranked as the first publishing centre in the province with three dailies, one tri-weekly, one bi-weekly, four weeklies, one fortnightly and three monthlies.

Circulation.

277. The circulation of provincial papers did not generally show much variation though the invasion of extra-provincial papers on a considerable scale continued.

Tone.

278. The minority Ministry during the first three months was generally criticised but almost all the papers welcomed the formation of a Ministry by the Congress Party in July 1937. The Responsivist section of the press, however, changed its attitude with the fall of the first Congress Ministry and became very critical of the second Ministry, often indulging in bitter attacks on its policy and measures. The tone of the press during these years was, however, moderate on the whole, though some papers were at times intemperate on regional and communal questions. The Urdu press was generally hostile to the Congress Ministry.

Action against the Press.

279. When the Congress Party assumed office in July 1937, it issued orders cancelling or refunding all securities demanded or forfeited. In an effort to maintain communal peace and harmony, Government issued a warning to the whole press to refrain from publishing matter calculated to excite communal feelings. The Muslim section of the press and some pro-Hindu Mahasabha papers, however, persisted in ignoring the warning and Government had to take action against them under the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931.

280. During the triennium under report, warnings were issued to two Muslim and three pro-Hindu Mahasabha papers for publishing matter calculated to excite communal bitterness. As the repetition of these warnings did not improve matters, Government had to demand securities from three Muslim and three pro-Hindu Sabha papers. A complaint was lodged under section 108 (*b*), Criminal Procedure Code, against the editor of one Muslim paper for disseminating matter, the publication of which is punishable under section 153-A, Indian Penal Code. One Responsivist paper was warned for publishing a communication inciting people to refuse or defer payment of land revenue.

281. During the year 1939-40 friendly hints and in some cases warnings have had to be issued to certain papers for offending against the provisions of the Defence of India Act or the Press Instructions for War.

Press Conferences.

282. With a view to establishing closer contact with the press, the idea of holding press conferences, first mooted in the year 1937, was given effect to by the Congress Ministry. The conferences grew in popularity and have become a regular feature especially since the assumption of all legislative and administrative functions by the Governor under section 93 of the Government of India Act.

General.

283. The period under report almost synchronised with the period of office held by the Congress Ministry. Under Provincial Autonomy, popular interest was concentrated to a larger extent than before on provincial affairs and the press naturally expected greater facilities for obtaining information. The question of the reorganisation of the Publicity Office, therefore, came to the forefront and after careful consideration, it was decided to appoint a journalist as a whole-time Publicity Officer. The first appointment was made in July 1939 on a contract basis for a period of three years. At the same time, the Publicity Office was converted into a separate department with adequate staff. On the outbreak of War in September 1939, the Publicity Officer was appointed Special Press Adviser in addition to his other duties and the Under Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department was appointed Provincial Press Adviser.

Government Press.

284. **Printing Work.**—The work was normal throughout. During 1937-38 the entire Central Assembly Electoral Rolls were printed in this Press and the work was done with speed and economy. Printing and distribution of the Land Records and Settlement Forms, which was for a long time done at a private press, was transferred to this Press during the year 1938-39. A feature of the latter half of the year 1939-40 was the issue of quite a large number of Extraordinary Gazettes by the Provincial Government due largely to the War. During the last quarter of the triennium shortage of paper was keenly felt and the prices of all kinds of printing papers were steadily on the increase, and action had to be taken to secure curtailment of the indenting officers' requirements to the absolute minimum.

285. **Mechanisation.**—A further step towards mechanisation of the Press was taken by the purchase of additional Monotype Caster and Super Caster during 1938-39.

286. **The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (IV of 1936).**—The Payment of Wages Act came into force from the beginning of the triennium and the dates of payment of wages as prescribed under the Act are being regularly observed.

287. **The Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1937.**—The Press employees, especially those at work involving the use of lead compounds, were subjected to special and periodical examination as required by these rules from the year 1938-39.

288. **The Administration and the Workers.**—The Superintendent, Government Printing, Mr. G. C. Natarajan, M.B.E., was placed on special duty for a period of six months from 4th January 1939 to investigate the possible economies in the use of forms and to make definite suggestions in regard to more effective standardization thereof. His detailed report was under examination of Government at the close of the triennium. The Rules governing the administration of the Government Press Fine Fund were suitably amended from the year 1937-38 so as to afford some pecuniary relief to the workers by advancing to them petty loans at low interest. The Government Press Works Committee held its meeting as usual and the relations between the workers and the management continued to be quite cordial throughout.

(4) Archaeology and Museums

[Report of the Central Museum, Nagpur, for the years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1939-40.]

I.—Visitors.

289. The total number of visitors counted at the turn-stile was as follows:—

Year	Male	Female	Total
1937-38 ..	232,354	97,969	330,323
1938-39 ..	212,013	120,137	332,150
1939-40 ..	300,574	99,611	390,185

The average daily attendance increased from 929 to 1,069.

II.—Archæological Section.

290. This Museum received a share of the antiquities discovered at Mohenjo-daro which are exhibited in specially constructed cases and are supplemented with photographic views and explanatory labels. The pre-historic collection of the Museum has been rearranged and provided with bi-lingual labels.

291. Fourteen stone and 37 brass Jain images and ten brass Hindu images (three discovered at Salkhan and seven obtained from Madras) have been acquired for the Museum. The Museum's collection of inscriptions has been enriched by the addition of five copper plates and nine inscribed stones. Twenty photographic views of the archæological sites in the province are displayed in the gallery. The Coin Cabinet was increased by addition of 513 coins as shown in the appendix.

III.—Geological Section.

292. Collections in the Geological, Eathnological, Economic and Arts and Crafts Sections have been thoroughly rearranged and relabelled.

293. A number of specimens of minerals of economic importance were added. An illustrated chart of the fossil history of the earth and a view of a restored Dinosaur have been added.

IV.—Economic Section.

294. The agricultural exhibits were made up to date by the addition of over 100 specimens which have been supplemented with seven interesting statistical maps. A large case showing specimens of leather tanned with different tanning materials of the province has been introduced. The Empress Mills case has been thoroughly remodelled.

V.—Ethnological Section.

295. The ornaments and other articles carried on the person by the aboriginals of the province have been prominently displayed in small wall cases. Maps giving interesting statistical data from the last Census Report (1931) have been introduced in the gallery.

VI.—Arts and Crafts.

296. The specimens of old painting representing Mughal, Jaipur and Lucknow art have been provided with suitable mounts and explanatory labels and are now displayed together in the form of an art collection.

VII.—Natural History.

297. Several birds, reptiles, fishes and mammals were collected during the period under review. Of the mammals a fine head of a wild buffalo deserves special mention. The exhibits showing mimicry insects, insects attacking timber, birds useful and harmful to agriculture and beak adaptations in birds have been thoroughly renewed and rearranged.

VIII.—Education.

298. Thirty books have been added to the Museum library. A guide lecturer was appointed in May 1939 who explains to the visitors in the medium they prefer. Thirty-nine schools visited the Museum and the guide lecturer explained the exhibits to batches of students.

299. An artist modeller was appointed in August 1939 and was deputed for training for one month at the Prince of Wales' Museum, Bombay.

(5) Rural Uplift

300. The outstanding event during the period is the reconstitution of the Village Uplift Board for the province with a view to co-ordinate and intensify the efforts of the various official and non-official workers in the field of village uplift and rural reconstruction. The Board is at present presided over by the Financial Adviser to His Excellency the Governor and the heads of the various development departments of Government and prominent non-officials interested in the movement are its members.

301. Another important event during the period was the appointment of Mr. T. Y. Deo, in 1939, as Organiser for village uplift work. He toured throughout the province and conducted district village uplift training classes at many places such as Nagpur, Bhandara, Drug, Raipur, Buldana, Khandwa, Betul, Balaghat, etc. The district council teachers who attended these classes have been helpful in educating villagers in sanitation and personal hygiene and in conducting night classes for adults. Mr. Deo continued his research work and has achieved considerable success in the preparation and preservation of lemon and orange squashes and of jams and marmalade. These preparations have been freely demonstrated in these classes and in classes specially held for ladies.

302. All the districts and tahsils have a village uplift committee. The activities embrace all aspects of village life such as—

(1) agriculture,
(2) village industries,
(3) primary and adult education, and
(4) medical aid and sanitation.

303. Under agriculture the principal activities were the formation of seed unions, encouragement of manure pits, distribution of good seed and cultivation of fruit trees, such as mangoes, oranges, mosambis and of green vegetables. Intensive propaganda by means of lectures, distribution of leaflets, demonstration and personal persuasion was carried on. Improved implements of agriculture are being increasingly used by the agriculturists. Private demonstration plots, situated at Khedi-Saoligarh and Narkhed in the Betul district, served as useful centres in propagating improved varieties of seed of wheat and cane. During the year 1940, 116,528 sets of canes and 100 maunds of wheat have been distributed from these plots.

304. On the industrial side, the All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha, is doing good research work. Experiments were carried out in paper-making, oil-ghani, rice-pounding mills, dal mill and utilisation of all the parts of a dead animal. During the year 1937-38, a scheme for the establishment of 50 centres was drawn up in consultation with the All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha. Encouragement of handspinning and handweaving occupies the pride of place in the scheme. The programme of work includes general welfare and side industries. On the industrial side it is proposed to work at least one oil-ghani throughout the year so that villagers may get fresh, pure and nutritious oil. Poultry farming and dairying are also receiving attention in some places.

305. As regards primary and adult education, an appeal to teachers and students was issued during the year 1938 to devote some of their spare time in vacation to actual uplift work in villages. A number of schools and colleges, such as Government High Schools of Khandwa, Drug, Bhandara, King Edward College, Hislop College, Robertson College, Hitkarni College, Morris College, etc., responded to the appeal and sent out students in villages for uplift work. At some places night schools for adults have been started.

306. Mrs. Seaman's village nursing scheme is becoming popular throughout the province and especially in Buldana, Akola, Chhindwara and Drug districts. In order to provide facilities for medical relief in rural areas, cheap-plan dispensaries have been started in Bilaigarh and Kharora in Raipur district and at Sahaspur-Lohara in Drug district. Students of the Government High Schools of Bilaspur, Wardha, Khandwa, etc., paid special attention to the cleanliness and sanitation of the villages in general.

APPENDIX

Statement showing the number of coins received for the Coin Cabinet during the years 1937-38 *to* 1939-40.

Donors	Gold	Silver	Copper	Bullion	Lead	Mixed metal	Copper silver coated	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society, Bombay.	..	15	12	..	..	..	..	27
United Provinces Government.	..	36	15	26	..	..	..	77
Coin Cabinet, Patna.. ..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	22
Punjab Government.. ..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	10
District Superintendent of Police, Saugor.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gwalior Durbar	..	2	32	..	..	..	..	34
Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Northern Circle, Agra.	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Director of Industries, Central Provinces and Berar.	30	278	24	..	..	..	..	332
By purchase	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Director-General of Archæology through Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Northern Circle.	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	4
Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Frontier Circle, Lahore.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Total ..	32	363	90	27	..	..	1	513

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